

Local Roads First: Improving SLO County Transportation

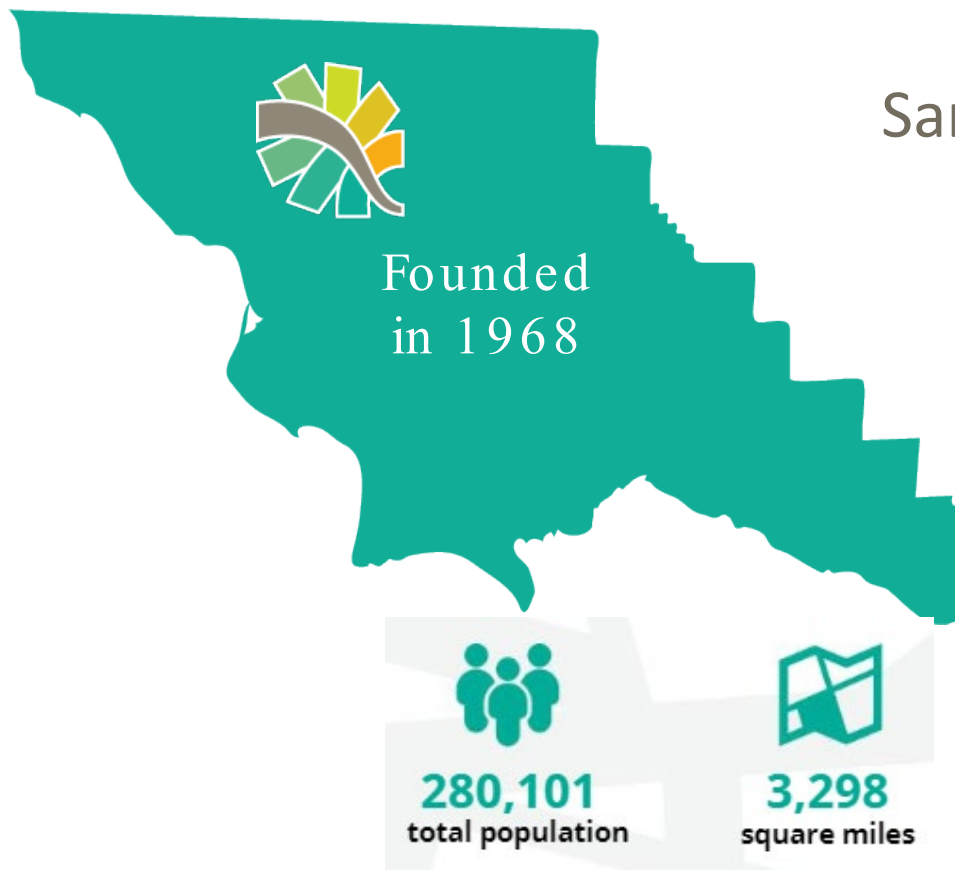
Developing a Draft
Transportation Investment
Plan

Summer 2025



Introduction to SLOCOG

Connecting Communities (7 cities & SLO County)



San Luis Obispo County & 7 Cities

- Arroyo Grande
- Atascadero
- Grover Beach
- Morro Bay
- Paso Robles
- Pismo Beach
- San Luis Obispo

SLOCOG \$\$\$ for Improvements: S. County

- Pismo Promenades
- Shell Beach Rd ped path
- Pismo Preserve Parking
- Dino Caves
- ped/sidewalks

- Outlets PnR+Transit

- Grover Boardwalk
- Grand Ave Improvements
- Train Station
- Transit Center
- SRTS
- Meadow Creek Bridge

- Santa Maria River Br. Widening
- Oak Park, 4th St. Interchanges
- 101 Auxiliary Lanes
- Truck Climbing lane
- Shell Beach Straits Imp. (coming)

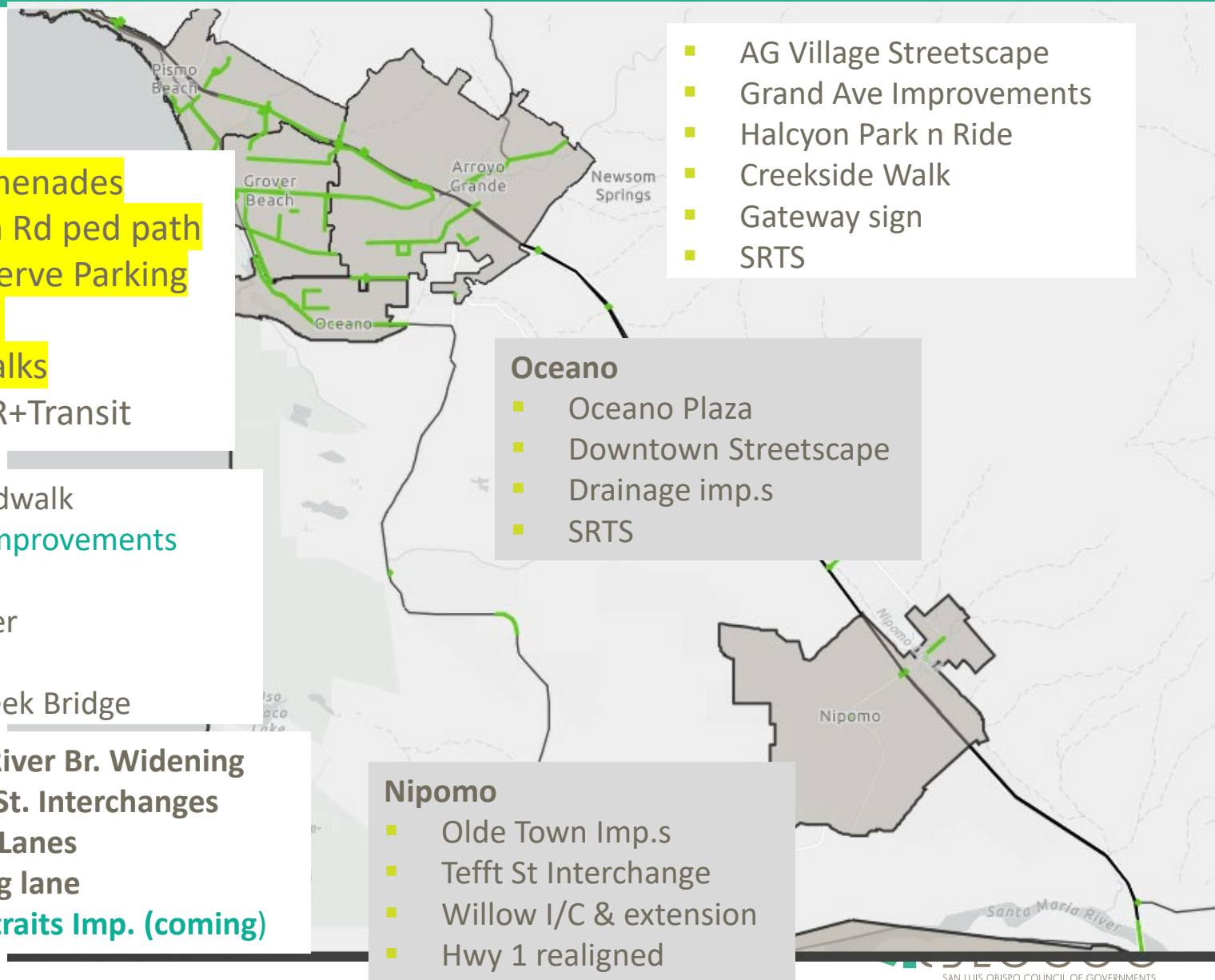
- AG Village Streetscape
- Grand Ave Improvements
- Halcyon Park n Ride
- Creekside Walk
- Gateway sign
- SRTS

Oceano

- Oceano Plaza
- Downtown Streetscape
- Drainage imp.s
- SRTS

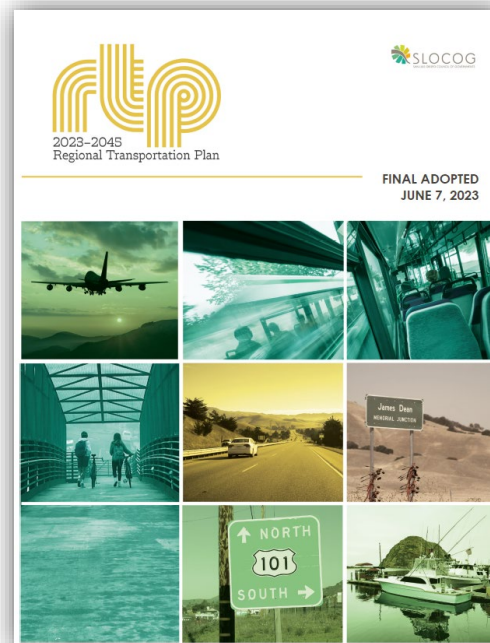
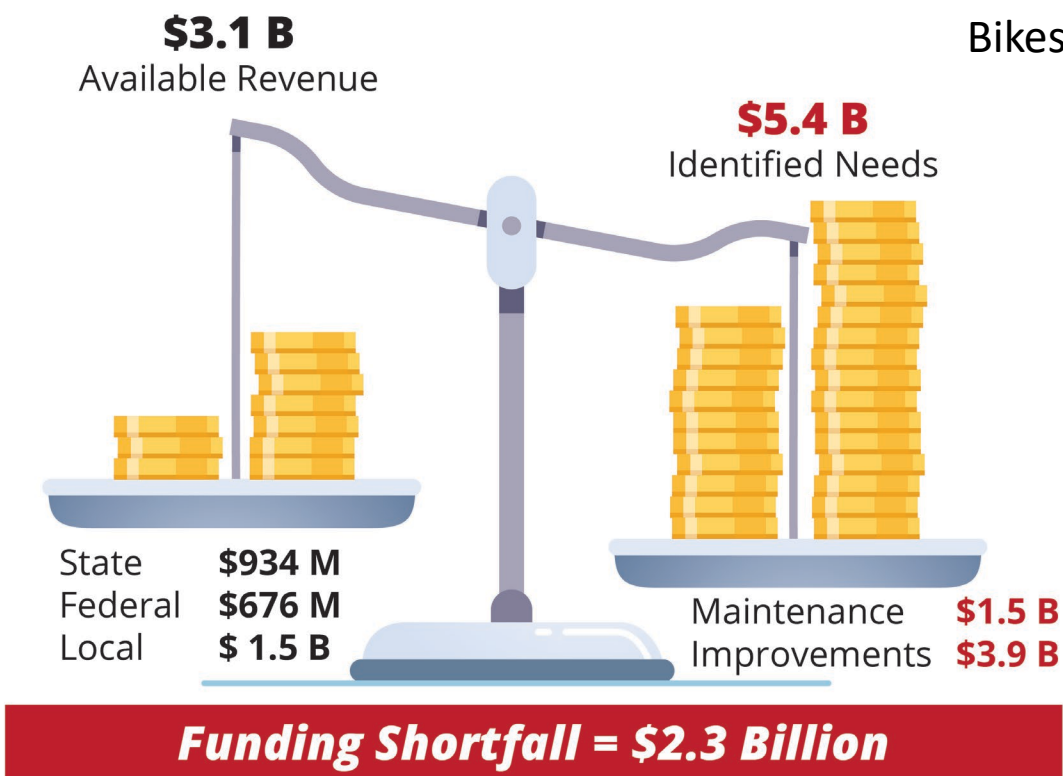
Nipomo

- Olde Town Imp.s
- Tefft St Interchange
- Willow I/C & extension
- Hwy 1 realigned



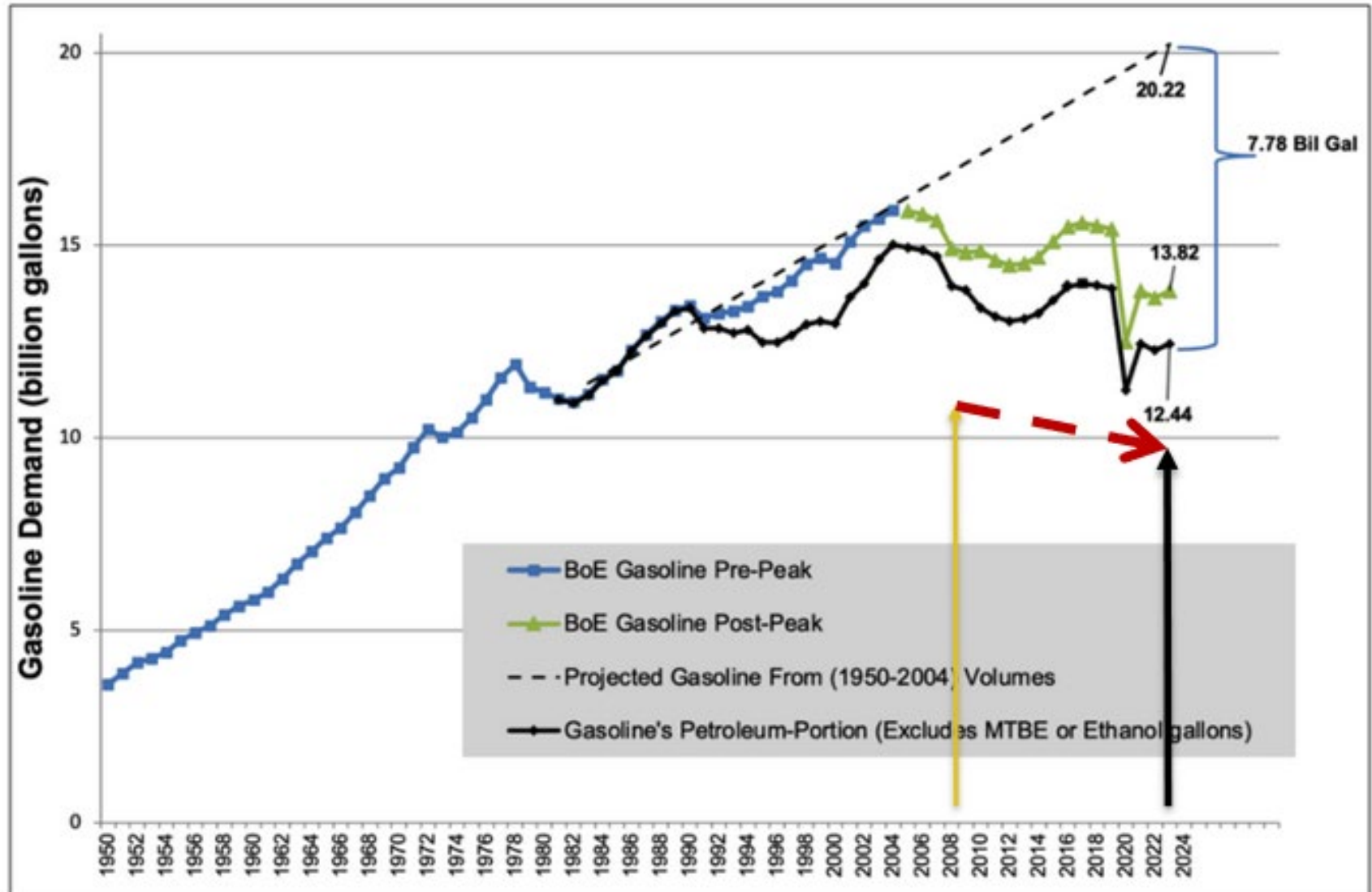
23-Year Outlook Unfunded Need

Highways, Interchanges	-\$687M
Major Roads, Downtowns	-\$372M
Local Road Maintenance	-\$400M
Public Transit/Senior Mobility	-\$100M
Bikes, Peds, Safe Routes to School	-\$714M



The why: A Shrinking Fuel Tax

Gas Tax Consumption & Revenues Have Declined Significantly



Local Road Maintenance Issues Persist



100

90

80

70

60

50

40

30

20

10

2025 Pavement Condition Index

SLO: 73

Pismo Beach: 67

Morro Bay: 60

Arroyo Grande: 57

Atascadero: 57

Paso Robles: 54

Grover Beach: 52

County roads 10+
year trend:

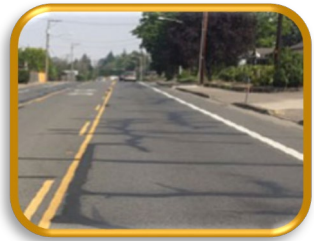
63 in 2013

64 in 2017

60 in 2020

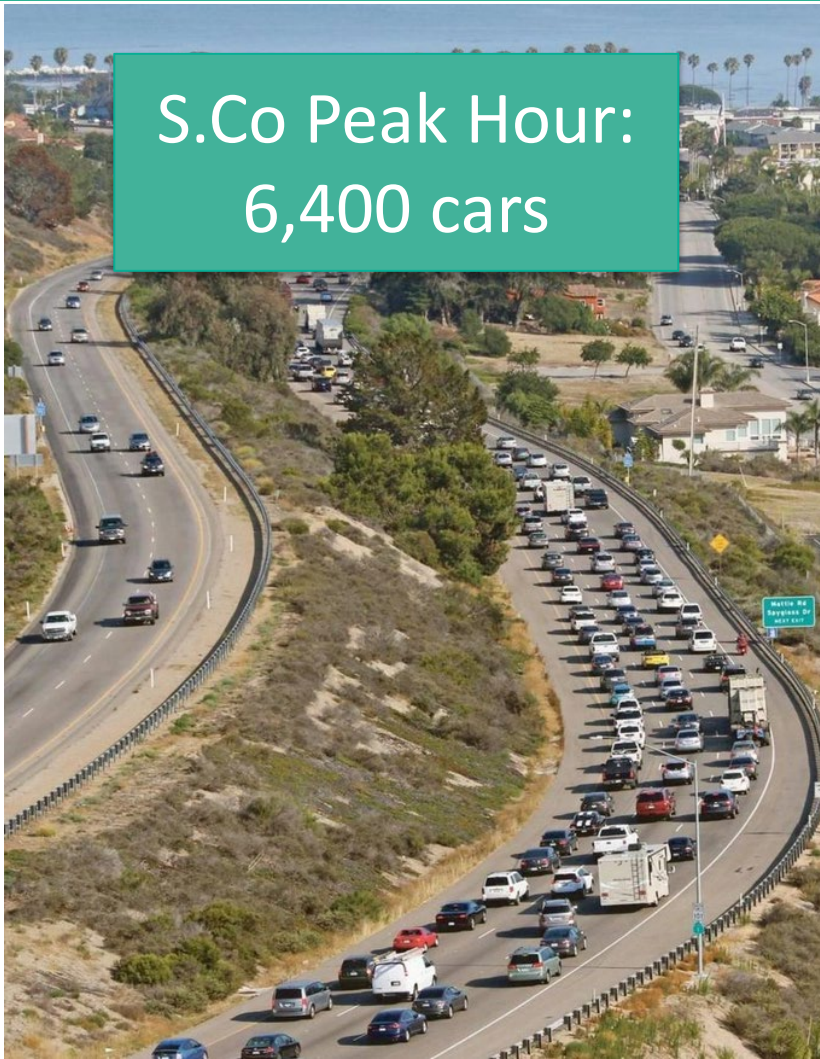
60 in 2022

60 in 2025



Highway Congestion

S.Co Peak Hour:
6,400 cars



Shell Beach: South of Avila Beach Rd

N.Co Peak Hour:
10,000 cars



Atascadero: North of San Anselmo

Key County Transportation Needs

- **Highways-** efficiency and safety upgrades (101, 46, 41, 58, 227, 1)
- **Road and Pothole repairs** regionwide
- **Local Road Safety Improvements** - bridges, guardrails, road widening, intersections
- **Senior Transportation and Public Transit** improvements for Persons with Disabilities, Veterans
- **Pedestrian Safety and Safe Routes to School**
- **Regional Bike Trails** (Bob Jones, Anza, Coastal)

There's Always A Choice

Option 1: Do nothing

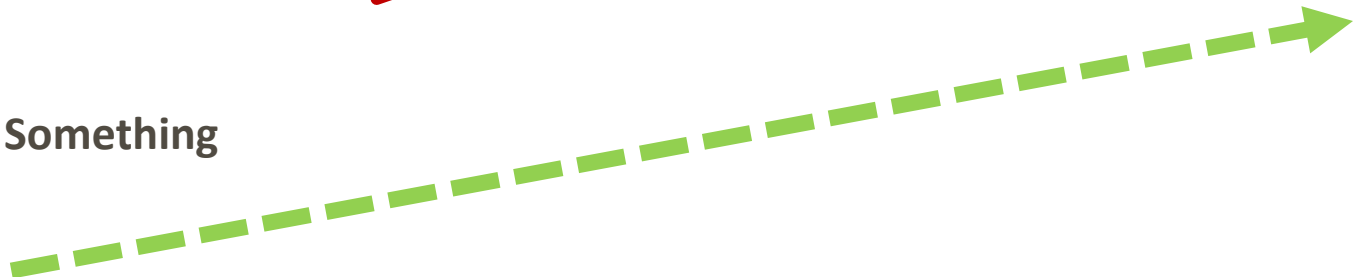
- Be stuck in traffic more often with longer delays
- Accept 30 deaths and 160+ serious injuries every year, and growing
- Watch safety, reliability and pavements decline.
- Pay for more accidents, alignments, and blown tires due to potholes
- Pass on getting our fair share of paid taxes back
- Keep our aging bridges and interchanges
- Give a 'pass' to tourists using our roads and highways
- Rely on the gas tax



Shortfalls:

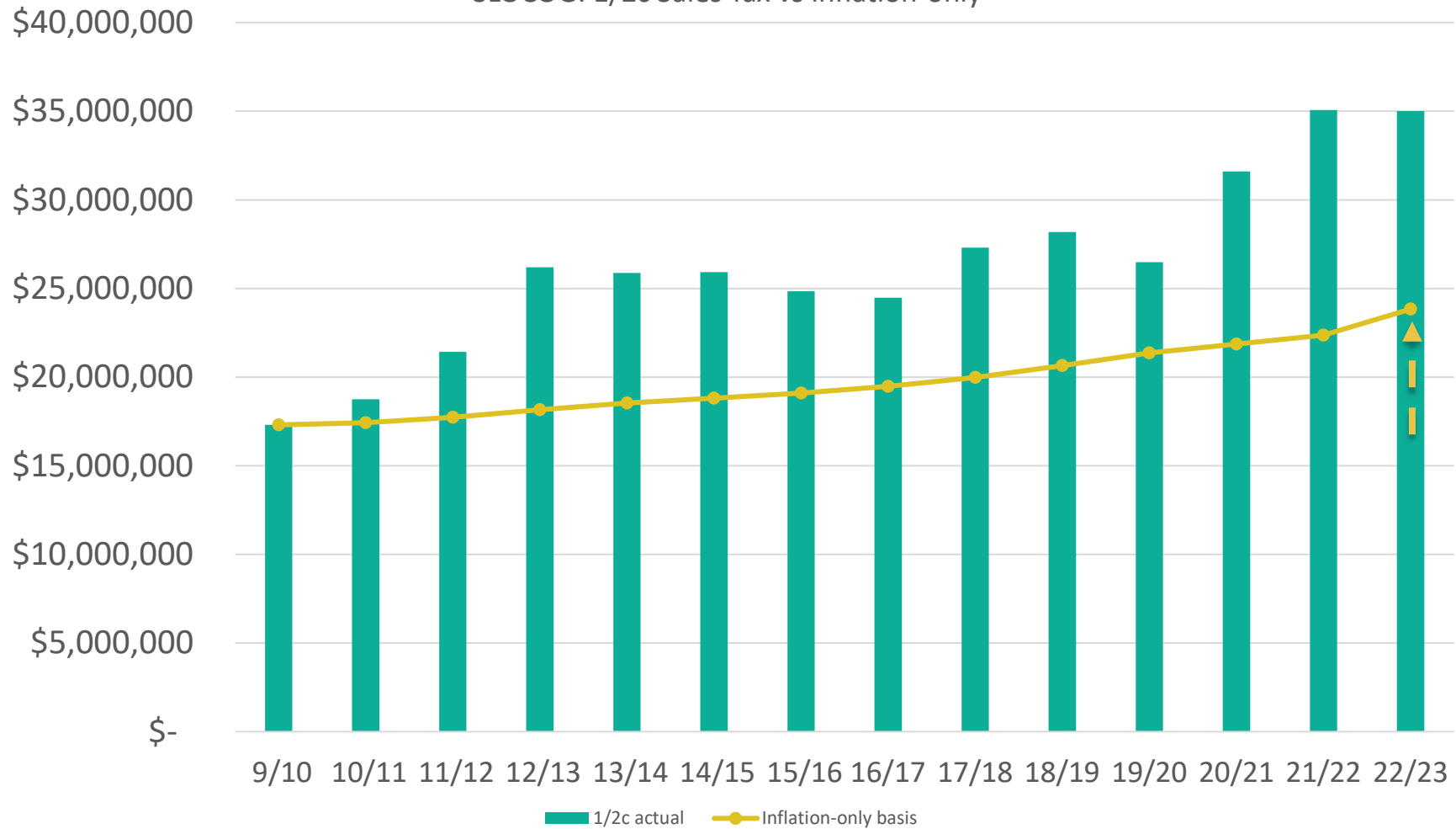
- 101 – Shell Beach
- 46E – Paso Robles
- Prado – SLO

Option 2: Do Something



SLOCOG: 1/2c Sales Tax vs Inflation-only

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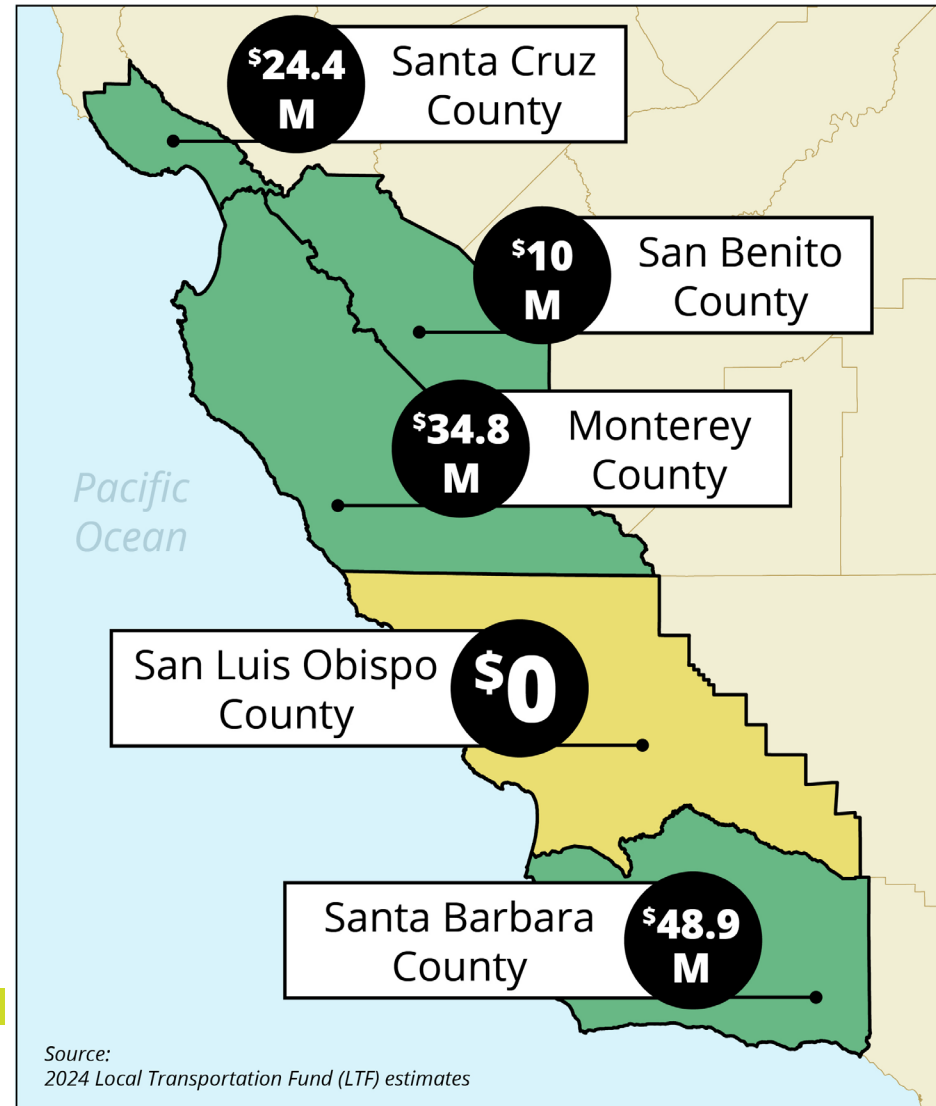


Neighboring County Comparison (PER YEAR)

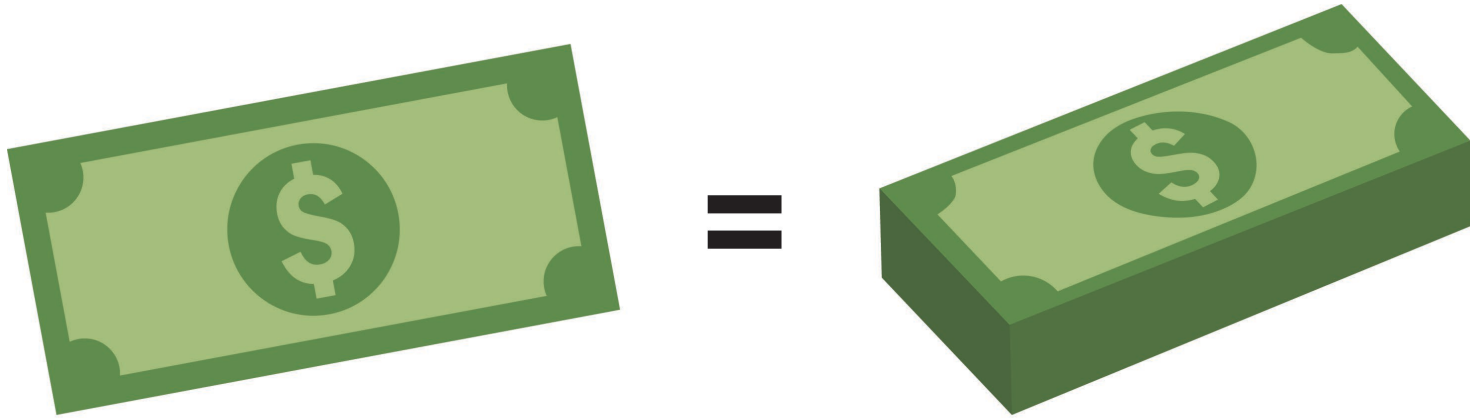
- Currently, 25 Counties (89% of Californians) **HAVE** a Special Transportation Tax
- San Benito – 2018 – 30 years
- Monterey – 2016 – 30 years
- Santa Cruz – 2016 – 30 years
- Santa Barbara - 2008 – 30 years
- San Luis Obispo – **Lost out on ~\$30m/yr over 9 years plus lost out on millions of grant funds**

Annual Transportation Sales Tax Collections by County

Based on actual sales tax revenue from 2024



Let's Leverage Some Funds...BOGO!



**For every \$1
invested**

**\$3-5 in grant
funds return**

25 Counties (89% of Californians) **HAVE** a Dedicated Transportation Tax and are getting more MONEY back from State and Federal funding pots by leveraging a HIGHER AMOUNT OF LOCAL FUNDS

What is the Cost?

WHAT WOULD A 1/2 CENT REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX LOOK LIKE?

THINGS THAT WILL **NOT** BE TAXED



HOUSING
rent, mortgage,
utilities,
insurance



MEDICAL
healthcare,
insurance



GROCERIES
food purchased
at grocery stores

THINGS THAT WILL BE TAXED



\$30 SHIRT = **\$0.15 TAX**

\$1,000 CELL PHONE =
\$5.00 TAX



\$30,000 CAR =
\$150.00 TAX

1 ADULT
(NO CHILDREN)
\$60,000 SALARY

WILL SPEND
AN ESTIMATED
\$2.31 A WEEK
ON A REGIONAL
SALES TAX

What are the Benefits...Jobs and the Economy



**\$100
Million**

=

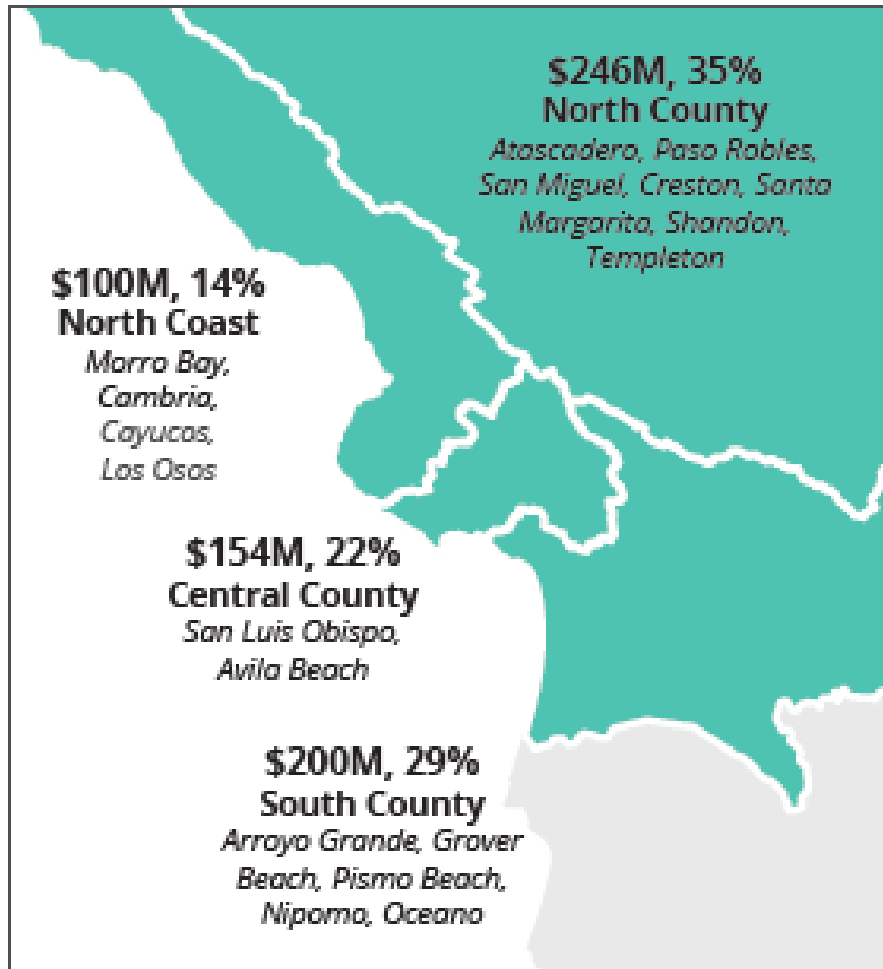


**1,000-1,500
Jobs Created**

½ cent sales tax in San Luis Obispo Region would:

- **Raise \$35+m** each year
- Be used to **Leverage ~\$1 billion** out of Sacramento
- Be protected from Sacramento (**cannot be stolen**)
- **Speed up** project delivery (reducing cost)
- **Guarantee** every penny for our local **TRANSPORTATION** priorities (no bait and switch)
- **Contain Safeguards** (accountability, oversight, audits, reporting, a sunset date, and 1% maximum for SLOCOG administration)
- Provide that **tourists** pay a tax guaranteed for our roads (finally!)
- **And deliver a list of improvements!!!**

Initial Proposal to Distribute Regionwide ½ cent sales tax



Total funding distributed by subregion based on population, over 20 years

Fair and Understandable

Distribution Formula:

- 4 Subregion Population %
 - % to Local Direction
 - %City
 - %City
 - %Unincorporated
 - % to Regional Programs

“Initial” 2025 SOUTH COUNTY IDENTIFIED NEEDS (part 1)

Arroyo Grande

- ☐ Road Repairs, Safety, and Congestion Improvements
 - ☐ E. Grand Ave., Oak Park Blvd, El Camino Real, The Pike, Branch St., James Way, Traffic Way, Brisco, Halcyon, and others
 - ☐ Safe Routes to School

Grover Beach

- ☐ Road Repairs, Safety, and Congestion Improvements
 - ☐ Grand Ave., 4th St., Oak Park Blvd, El Camino Real, The Pike,
 - ☐ Intersection Improvements
 - ☐ Boardwalk Trail extension
 - ☐ Safe Routes to School

Pismo Beach

- ☐ Road Repairs, Safety, and Congestion Improvements
 - ☐ 4th St., Oak Park Blvd., Mattie
 - ☐ Parking Improvements and traffic solutions
 - ☐ Downtown Improvements per Pismo plan
 - ☐ Safe Routes to School
 - ☐ Promenade and Trail extension
 - ☐ Wayfinding signs
 - ☐ Intersection improvements (Bello/Price, Stimson/Price, Dolliver)

“Initial” 2025 SOUTH COUNTY IDENTIFIED NEEDS (part 2)

Nipomo

- ☐ Road Repairs, Congestion, and Safety Improvements
 - ☐ Improve connectivity, close gaps, fix dangerous intersections
 - ☐ Thompson, Tefft,Orchard, Pomeroy, Division, etc.
 - ☐ 101 Ramp improvements south of Tefft

Oceano

- ☐ Pier Ave. Corridor Plan improvements
- ☐ Road Repairs, Safety, Stormwater, and Sidewalk Improvements
 - ☐ Safe Routes to School
 - ☐ Beach Access
 - ☐ 4th, 13th, 17th, 22nd, Elm, Pier, The Pike

South County Regional Needs

- ☐ US 101 Regional Safety Corridor Improvements – Safety, interchanges, and congestion issues
- ☐ Public Transit for Seniors, Persons with Disabilities, Veterans; local transit and RTA
- ☐ Major Trails: Bob Jones, Coastal, and Anza Trails
- ☐ Highway 1 Safety improvements

Other/Unincorporated areas

- ☐ Rural Road Repairs, Safety and Congestion Improvements in the unincorporated South County
 - ☐ Oceano and Nipomo
 - ☐ Halcyon, Price Cyn, Orcutt, Lopez, Huasna, Los Berros, and others

Our Ask: Learn More and Let's Connect...

- Take the Local Roads First Survey localroadsfirst.com (QR code)
- Help hand out cards to friends and acquaintances
- We're happy to present to other groups – Sign up on the website as well!



**Making SLO
County safer can
only be achieved
with your help!**





SLOCOG

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS