

For Immediate Release

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METRO Announces 2021 Fall Service Schedule

UCSC service returns, riders benefit from pre-COVID service levels and electric buses roll out

September 10, 2021 — SANTA CRUZ, CA — Santa Cruz METRO announced its Fall 2021 schedule, covering Sept. 16 through Dec. 8. Most riders will see a complete return to pre-COVID levels of service, with the exceptions of weekday Highway 17, 91X trips and some UCSC service.

To support the return of in-person classes at UCSC, Routes 15 and 22, suspended since Spring 2020, will be reactivated. Route 22 will again operate from the Seymour Center at the Coastal Science Campus to the UCSC main campus, but will follow a new route via Delaware Boulevard, Almar Avenue, Mission Street and Bay Drive.

METRO will also further its commitment to going green this fall by deploying its first four electric buses. Two will be dedicated to METRO's new Zero-Emission Watsonville Circulator Route and two will run on routes throughout Santa Cruz County.

In addition, METRO, in partnership with the Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce and the Coalition for Clean Air, will offer free fares countywide on fixed-route and ParaCruz service for California Clean Air Day on Oct.

6. Community members are encouraged to take the Clean Air Pledge by visiting cleanairday.org.

To provide additional service in support of Santa Cruz County Fair attendees, METRO will once again extend Route 79 and ParaCruz service to the fairgrounds in Watsonville, Sept. 15-19. Service will run daily from noon - 10:25 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. - 10:25 p.m. on weekends. Attendees can also stop by METRO's booth to check out one of the new electric buses and learn about METRO services. Visit scmttd.com/countyfair for details.

In support of local public health, METRO will continue to offer free fares to and from COVID-19 vaccination appointments with proof of appointment.

For information on METRO, visit scmttd.com. For future fare purchases, check out the touchless and contactless mobile ticketing app, METRO's Splash Pass, at scmttd.com/apps. For information on routes and schedules visit scmttd.com/en/routes.

About Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District:

Established in 1968, Santa Cruz METRO provides fixed-route and Highway 17 commuter service throughout Santa Cruz County, with limited service connecting to Monterey Salinas Transit at our Watsonville Transit Center and Santa Clara County, transporting more than 5 million passenger trips a year. METRO also operates ParaCruz paratransit service to Santa Cruz County, providing about 73,500 trips per year. METRO's operating budget in FY21 is almost \$55 million and is funded through a combination of farebox revenue, sales tax, and state and federal sources. Today it operates a fleet of 94 buses on at least 24 fixed-routes. For more information, visit www.scmttd.com. Like METRO on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SantaCruzMETRO or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/SantaCruzMETRO.

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