

For Immediate Release
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**Santa Cruz METRO Lifts Mandatory Face Mask Mandate for Vaccinated Persons
Effective Immediately**

Santa Cruz, CA (Tuesday, April 19, 2022) - The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) has decided to lift its' mandatory face mask mandate for vaccinated staff and riders, per Monday's announcement from TSA, advising public transportation operators that they no longer need to enforce the federal face mask mandate effective today, Tuesday, April 19, 2022.

Due to this announcement from TSA, effective today, Tuesday, April 19, 2022, METRO will no longer be requiring face masks for vaccinated individuals; instead the agency is strongly recommending face masks to be worn on METRO vehicles and at Transit Centers. Unvaccinated persons will still be required to wear a face mask onboard METRO vehicles and while inside a Transit Center.

As the TSA announcement was just made public yesterday, METRO asks customers to please be patient while staff works to remove mandatory face mask signage onboard our vehicles and Transit Centers.

METRO continues to follow public health guidelines from official sources such as CDC, State, and local guidance whenever possible to support safe travel. Including cleaning and disinfecting transit vehicles and strongly recommending face masks while onboard METRO vehicles and inside Transit Centers. In addition, METRO puts health first by requiring riders and employees to avoid public transit if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or feel ill.

For more information on the rescinded TSA Security Directive, visit <https://www.transit.dot.gov/TransitMaskUp>. For more information on METRO visit scmttd.com or to view METRO's current schedule visit scmttd.com/en/routes/schedule.

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About Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District:

Established in 1968, Santa Cruz METRO provides directly operated 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 directly 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 METRO operates a fleet of 94 buses on at least 24 fixed-routes and 32 paratransit vehicles. 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.

*Reflect pre-pandemic ridership numbers