

For Immediate Release

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METRO Announces Spring 2023 Service Schedule

Riders to benefit from reinstated Watsonville and Highway 17 Express routes

MARCH 15, 2023 — SANTA CRUZ, CA — Santa Cruz METRO today announced its spring 2023 service schedule, running March 16th through June 7th. Key adjustments have been made to the spring schedule based on customer feedback, including reinstatement of Watsonville and Highway 17 Express routes.

“While METRO is working hard to address a bus operator shortage, we’ve made several key adjustments with our riders in mind,” said Santa Cruz METRO CEO/General Manager, Michael Tree. “The new spring 2023 schedule includes reinstatement of routes that will benefit riders by helping them more efficiently get where they need to go.”

Route 69A returns to its previous route and frequency (fall 2022 service) in Watsonville to provide service from Lincoln St., Freedom Blvd. and Airport Blvd. to the Capitola Mall. 69A will have a route change in Aptos to serve Cabrillo College, resulting in both Routes 69A and 69W now serving Cabrillo.

Due to the return of Route 69A, Route 69W and the Watsonville Circulator will return to fall 2022 routing. Watsonville Hospital and Rolling Hills Middle School will no longer be served by Route 69W. Watsonville Hospital will be served by Route 69A, as it was during fall 2022.

To support travel for Highway 17 commuters, three Highway 17 Express weekday morning northbound trips will continue past San Jose Diridon to San Fernando & 7th St. to serve downtown and San Jose State University. Three weekday afternoon/ evening southbound trips will begin from San Jose Diridon and serve Santa Clara St. and San Fernando & 7th St. stops, then continue to 10th St., I-280 and Highway 17 to Scotts Valley and Santa Cruz. All downtown/SJSU trips will include service to both Scotts Valley Transit Center and Scotts Valley Drive.

In addition, METRO plans to replace cruzmetro.com with our new METRO Real-Time service now available at rt.scmetro.org, and will provide real-time bus locations and estimated arrival times, trip plans, and subscriber alerts, as well as provide GTFS real-time data to Google Maps and all smartphone apps that use that data, such as *Transit* app.

During March and April we will gradually complete the equipping of our entire bus fleet. During this transition period, customers are asked to check both sites (cruzmetro.com and rt.scmetro.org) to find which of the maps shows a live bus on your route of interest.

METRO plans to announce when Real-Time is fully deployed to all buses, at which time cruzmetro.com will become obsolete and will be taken offline.

To view a complete list of spring 2023 service changes visit <http://scmttd.com/en/metro-news-bulletins> or to view the spring 2023 schedule visit <http://scmttd.com/en/routes/schedule/202330>.

About Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)

Established in 1968, METRO'S mission is to provide environmentally sustainable transportation to Santa Cruz County. METRO directly operates county-wide, fixed-route and Highway 17 commuter service, with connections to Santa Clara County and Monterey Salinas Transit at our Watsonville Transit Center. The agency also operates ParaCruz paratransit service. Today METRO operates a fleet of 94 buses on at least 24 fixed routes and 32 paratransit vehicles.

Every ride on a METRO bus takes cars off the road, significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and supports economic opportunity and quality of life in our community. Moving into the future, METRO strives to meet the following goals:

- Increase transit ridership to 7 million trips annually within the next five years
- Transition to a zero-emissions fleet with a mix of hydrogen and battery electric buses
- Develop 175 affordable housing units at METRO-owned transit centers over the next decade

For more information, visit scmttd.com Follow METRO on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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