

For Immediate Release  
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## **Santa Cruz METRO Announces Free Fares County-Wide on Election Day**

**Santa Cruz, CA (Friday, October 30, 2020)** - The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) announces that METRO will be providing free local transit rides county-wide on all fixed routes including the Hwy-17 Express on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

The health and safety of METRO customers and operators has been a priority for METRO since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and on Election Day this priority will no different. METRO recently joined the American Public Transportation Association's (APTA) Health and Safety Commitments Program, the public transportation industry's overarching pledge to passengers that public transit systems are taking all the necessary measures to operate safely as the nation recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

METRO is fulfilling this pledge in continuing to following public health guidelines from official sources such as CDC, State, and local guidance whenever possible. Cleaning and disinfecting transit vehicles frequently and requiring face coverings and other protections. Keeping passengers informed and providing resources to support safe travel. In addition, to putting health first by requiring riders and employees to avoid public transit if they have been exposed to COVID-19 or feel ill and installing additional safety measures.

This promotional campaign, offering voters free transportation to and from the polls is just another way METRO is committing to the health and safety of our customers and operators. This free fare day will provide a touchless boarding process without the need to navigate fare payment, minimize interaction between riders and operators, and reduce boarding times at bus stops. Free fares will also allow the Santa Cruz's community equal opportunity to get to the poles and provide an additional incentive for voters to take public transit to polling places.

All of METRO's fixed-route travel in Santa Cruz County and travel on METRO's Hwy-17 Express to Diridon Station in San Jose will be free on Election Day.

On Election Day METRO will continue to adhere to physical distancing guidance onboard vehicles, and limit the number of passengers onboard at any given time.

If you haven't used METRO services in the past we encourage you try us out for free on Election Day.

On Election Day, the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For information on METRO, visit [scmttd.com](http://scmttd.com). For information on METRO routes and schedules visit [scmttd.com/en/routes](http://scmttd.com/en/routes) or to stay connected to bus arrival information in real-time visit [scmttd.com/en/riders-guide/stay-connected](http://scmttd.com/en/riders-guide/stay-connected).

For more information on METRO's Health & Safety Commitments Pledge visit [scmttd.com/apta-pledge](http://scmttd.com/apta-pledge)

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**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 102 buses on 26 fixed-routes. For more information, visit [www.scmtd.com](http://www.scmtd.com).