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**Santa Cruz METRO Joins Public Transit Systems Around the Country in Urging Congress to #SavePublicTransit**  
*APTA-organized day of action and engagement will take place on Tuesday, December 15*

**Santa Cruz, CA (December 10, 2020)** - The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) is joining fellow APTA members and industry partners on Tuesday, December 15 to collectively fight to **#SavePublicTransit** with a day of mobilization and engagement.

Organized by the American Public Transportation Association (APTA), #SavePublicTransit Day will shine the light on the dire financial crisis facing the public transportation industry and urge elected officials to take immediate action.

It is critical that Congress move forward and provide emergency funding for public transit in the lame duck session before Congress recesses for the holiday. The industry is calling on Congress and the Administration to provide at least \$32 billion in emergency funding to ensure that public transit agencies can survive and help our communities and nation recover from the economic fallout of the pandemic.

Without at least \$32 billion in emergency funding the transportation industry will be forced into possible service reductions and/or labor cuts.

“Immediate action needs to be taken to address the public transportation industry’s dire financial situation so that we can continue to serve essential employees every day and can help with the nation’s economic recovery,” said APTA President and CEO Paul P. Skoutelas. “The industry’s very survival is at stake.”

“It is crucial that Congress take the necessary time and steps to approve emergency funding for public transit as soon as possible. The Santa Cruz METRO and transit agencies across the nation need this funding in order to continue providing services to our community that rely on us to transport them to and from essential functions and essential jobs.” – Alex Clifford, METRO CEO/General Manager

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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.scmttd.com](http://www.scmttd.com).