

For Immediate Release
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**Santa Cruz METRO Offers Free Fares on Dump the Pump Day
Thursday, June 16, 2022**

Santa Cruz, CA (Wednesday, June 8, 2022) - The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) is supporting the 17th Annual Dump the Pump Day by offering free fares countywide on Thursday, June 16th.

METRO is supporting this national public awareness day, along with transit agencies across the nation, by encouraging people to “Dump the Pump” by parking their car and riding public transportation instead. Started in June 2006, when gas prices were \$3 per gallon, this national day emphasizes public transportation as a convenient travel option that also helps people save money and the planet. Now with gas prices even higher, at over \$6 per gallon locally, this is a great opportunity to remind our community that METRO’s public transportation options are affordable and convenient.

Not only can riders save money by using METRO services but public transportation also reduces greenhouse gas emissions and traffic congestion. Therefore, whether you want to save money or the planet, riding public transportation is a great alternative to using a car.

If you have not used METRO services in the past we encourage you try METRO’s fixed-route or ParaCruz services for free while reducing greenhouse gas emissions in support of Dump the Pump Day on Thursday, June 16, 2022.

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 frequently and installing additional safety measures. 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.

To view METRO’s real-time bus arrival information visit CruzMETRO at cruzmetro.com. Please note this platform is in beta-testing.

For information on METRO visit scmttd.com.

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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