

For Immediate Release  
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## **Santa Cruz METRO Supports Earth Day with Free Electric Bus Fares**

**Santa Cruz, CA (Tuesday, April 20, 2021)** - The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) is supporting Earth Day, Thursday, April 22, 2021 by offering free fares on METRO's first released electric bus.

Since 2002, METRO has been a leader in adopting a more sustainable fleet of buses to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by moving to compressed natural gas and hybrid vehicles. Now in 2021, METRO is further committed to "going green" by deploying METRO's first four electric buses into service in the fall of 2021.

Although METRO's electric buses won't officially be placed into service until the fall, METRO is celebrating and raising awareness of Earth Day by offering free fares on METRO's all-electric zero emission bus on Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, to assist our community in getting to their Earth Day destinations while reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

To use METRO's [free electric bus fare](#) program just simply locate METRO's electric bus at one of our countywide stops and board, no fare required for electric bus only. METRO's electric bus is easily identifiable by the bus wrap, which includes a large wave on both sides of the bus and is marked "All-Electric. Zero Emissions." On Earth Day, Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> you can locate METRO's electric bus on the following routes:

- Santa Cruz METRO Pacific Station 9:15am Outbound **68 Broadway/Portola to Capitola Mall**
- Capitola Mall 10:00am Inbound **66 Live Oak/17<sup>th</sup> to Santa Cruz**
- Santa Cruz METRO Pacific Station 11:00am Outbound **69A Airport/Watsonville**
- Watsonville Transit Center 12:45pm route **72 Green Valley-Hospital**
- Watsonville Transit Center 2:20pm Inbound **91X Cabrillo Express to Santa Cruz**

If you haven't used METRO services in the past we encourage you try us out free while reducing greenhouse gas emissions in support of Earth Day on Thursday, April 22, 2021. Please note that the free Earth Day fare only applies to trips on METRO's electric bus.

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, requiring face coverings, 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.

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

For information on METRO's visit [scmttd.com](http://scmttd.com).



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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 94 buses on at least 24 fixed-routes. For more information, visit [www.scmtd.com](http://www.scmtd.com). Like METRO on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SantaCruzMETRO](https://www.facebook.com/SantaCruzMETRO) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/SantaCruzMETRO](https://www.twitter.com/SantaCruzMETRO).