

For Immediate Release  
Date: March 17, 2021  
Contact: Danielle Glagola  
(831) 420-2550  
[dglagola@scmttd.com](mailto:dglagola@scmttd.com)  
[scmttd.com](http://scmttd.com)



## **Santa Cruz METRO Announces a Temporary Fare Reduction County-Wide**

**Santa Cruz, CA (Wednesday, March 17, 2021)** - The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) announces a temporary fare reduction county-wide on local, Highway-17 Express, and ParaCruz rides beginning Monday, March 22, 2021 through September 15, 2021.

METRO's temporary fare reduction program was established to aid our community in recovery and provide financial relief to those who rely on METRO's services. Beginning Monday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> Local Regular Fares will be discounted fifty percent (50%) and Discount Fares will now be free on all local and Highway-17 Express routes. Additionally, ParaCruz Base Fares and Extended Fares will be discounted fifty percent (50%) for registered ParaCruz customers.

Temporary fares will now be \$1.00 for Local Regular trips, \$3.50 for the Highway-17 Express, \$2.00 for ParaCruz Base Fares, \$3.00 for ParaCruz Extended Fares, and Free for Discount Fares with discount photo ID through September 15, 2021.

To accommodate this temporary fare reduction, METRO's ticket vending machines (TVMs) will be temporarily down on Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> for updates. Customers needing to make TVM purchases, for use through March 21<sup>st</sup>, should plan to do so before Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> or visit one of our Customer Service windows weekdays between 8AM to 12PM (Noon) at Pacific Station in Santa Cruz or at the Watsonville Transit Center.

Additionally, riders who are interested in using METRO to transport them to and from their COVID-19 vaccination appointments can do so for free with proof of the vaccination appointment. To make getting to your COVID-19 vaccination appointment even easier METRO has created a map highlighting routes that stop near vaccine clinics. Please see [scmttd.com/vaccine-routes](http://scmttd.com/vaccine-routes) to determine which route best applies to your vaccination location.

"Throughout the pandemic METRO's focus has been on the health and safety of our riders and operators and we will continue to have this same focus moving forward. Yet, as we are beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel, related to reduce positivity rates, the easing county restrictions, and increased vaccinations, METRO wants to do our part in our community's recovery. By offering a temporary fare reduction we are thanking our riders who have been with us throughout the pandemic, encouraging those who can ride to return to METRO, and encouraging new riders to try METRO as our local businesses are beginning to re-open their doors." Alex Clifford, METRO CEO/General Manager.

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's temporary fare reduction program is just another way METRO is showing our commitment to our community's recovery from the pandemic. 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, visit [scmttd.com](http://scmttd.com). For future fare purchases, check out our touchless and contactless mobile ticketing app, METRO's Splash Pass, at [scmttd.com/apps](http://scmttd.com/apps).

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

###

**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](http://www.facebook.com/SantaCruzMETRO) or follow us on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/SantaCruzMETRO](http://www.twitter.com/SantaCruzMETRO).