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Santa Cruz METRO Invites Public to a Virtual Public Meeting to Preview Possible Network Changes

Santa Cruz, Calif. (Wednesday, July 12, 2023): Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) is in the midst of REIMAGINE METRO, a project to review its entire network of transit routes and consider significant changes to where and how often the bus comes.

On July 18th at 5PM, METRO invites Santa Cruz County residents to attend a virtual public meeting via ZOOM to preview and provide feedback on the potential changes which are being proposed for implementation in December 2023. The meeting will be held in both English and Spanish. Those interested can register for the meeting at www.scmttd.com/ReimagineMetro.

In addition to the public meeting, METRO will be conducting an e-survey which will give everyone a chance to comment on the short term changes and to provide input on longer-term priorities. The E-Survey will be live starting July 12th and will be accessible in English and Spanish from the project website – www.scmttd.com/ReimagineMetro.

Based on input from riders, community stakeholders, and the general public, METRO is proposing to make changes to service that would include:

- More service, a 10% increase overall.
- Higher frequency in areas with higher demand.
- Simpler service and more direct routes.
- Better transfers with shorter waits and no second fare.

But to make this possible, METRO would need to:

- Change some route numbers and names.
- In some areas, change which streets have bus service.

According to METRO’s Planning Director, John Urgo, METRO is considering different possibilities in different areas. “We want to hear from the public about what would work best, in the areas that matter to them. We urge them to visit www.scmttd.com/ReimagineMETRO to review the proposed changes and add their voices to the plan.”

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About Us

Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)

Established in 1968, METRO'S mission is to provide easy-to-use, convenient transportation for residents while protecting the environment and building better communities. METRO directly operates county-wide, fixed-route and Highway 17 commuter service, with connections to Santa Clara County and Monterey Salinas Transit at our Watsonville Transit Center. The agency also operates ParaCruz paratransit service. Today METRO operates a fleet of 94 buses on at least 25 fixed routes and 32 paratransit vehicles.

Every ride on a METRO bus takes cars off the road, significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions, and supports economic opportunity and quality of life in our community. Moving into the future, METRO strives to meet the following goals:

- Increase transit ridership to 7 million trips annually within the next five years
- Transition to a zero-emissions fleet with a mix of hydrogen and electric vehicles
- Increase affordable housing at METRO-owned transit centers to 175 units in the next 10 years.

For more information, visit scmtd.com.