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### **Santa Cruz METRO to Feature New Gillig Bus at Open Streets Event**

Santa Cruz, CA, Oct. 10, 2019 – Join Santa Cruz METRO at Open Streets Santa Cruz on Sunday, Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Open Streets will be hosted along West Cliff Drive between Natural Bridges Beach and Lighthouse Beach.

The street is closed to traffic so that the community can walk and use non-motorized transportation to enjoy the scenic area and visit booths offering all sorts of information about ways to get out and play in Santa Cruz County while improving your health and peace of mind.

Santa Cruz METRO will have a booth located near West Cliff Drive and Almar Avenue along with our brand new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) low-emission Gillig bus on display.

This is a great opportunity to check out a brand new Northern California built bus before it goes into service. Gillig is based out of Livermore, California.

Santa Cruz METRO is moving forward with upgrades to its transit fleet that include new hybrid buses, zero emissions fully electric buses coming soon and these new Gilligs among others. Replacing and upgrading our fleet of buses is a top priority for METRO.

The California Air Resources Board has set a deadline of 2040 for all transit operators to transition to zero emissions electric fleets. Low emissions buses like the hybrid diesel-electrics operating on the Highway 17 service and METRO's CNG buses are a great near-term alternative that allows transit operators to significantly reduce fuel-emissions as we continue to support the bus manufacturing industry in their development of electric bus alternatives that maximize operating range. Current generation battery electric buses do not have the range to operate on METRO's longer runs without requiring in-route recharging. Alternative propulsion technologies, such as fuel cell technology, are also under consideration as we seek to maximize mileage and efficiency while we transition to a zero emissions fleet.

#### **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 service, providing about 72,000 trips per year. METRO's operating budget in FY19 is \$52 million and is funded through a combination of farebox revenues, sales tax and state and federal sources. Today it operates a fleet of 98 buses on 26 fixed routes. For more information, visit [www.scmtd.com](http://www.scmtd.com)