

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Santa Cruz METRO Honored with Distinguished Budget Presentation Award**

Santa Cruz, CA (Oct. 28, 2025): Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) is proud to announce that it has been awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its annual budget.

This prestigious recognition reflects METRO's strong commitment to transparency, accountability, and excellence in public financial management. The award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and represents a significant achievement for METRO's Board of Directors and staff.

To earn this honor, METRO's budget document met nationally recognized guidelines established by GFOA, which evaluate how effectively a budget serves as:

- A policy document
- A financial plan
- An operations guide
- A communications tool

Each budget must be rated "proficient" in all four categories and across fourteen mandatory criteria to qualify.

METRO joins more than 1,900 government entities across North America that participate in GFOA's Budget Awards Program. Award recipients are recognized for pioneering efforts to elevate the quality of budgeting and set a benchmark for others in the public sector.

"This award is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of our entire team," said Chuck Farmer, Chief Financial Officer of Santa Cruz METRO. "We take great pride in producing a budget that not only meets the highest standards but also reflects our values of fiscal responsibility and community service."

GFOA serves over 25,000 members by advancing excellence in government finance through best practices, professional development, and practical research.

Santa Cruz METRO is honored to receive this award and remains committed to fiscal integrity and service excellence for the communities we serve.

For more information on METRO visit [scmetro.org](http://scmetro.org).

## About Us

### **Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)**

Established in 1968, METRO'S mission is to provide environmentally sustainable transportation to Santa Cruz County. 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 104 buses on 20 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 [scmetro.org](http://scmetro.org).