

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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## COAST FUTURA RAIL DEMONSTRATION ROLLS OUT THIS WEEKEND WITH CLEAN, QUIET, ALL-ELECTRIC STREETCAR FOR SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

**OCT. 15, 2021—SANTA CRUZ, CA** — Coast Futura today announced a free demonstration of a clean-energy, affordable, accessible streetcar on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line, presented by Roaring Camp Railroads, is happening over two weekends in October.

The Coast Futura demonstration rail vehicle was manufactured by California-based TIG/m, LLC. The TIG/m ViaTran Streetcars are battery-dominant hydrogen fuel cell hybrids, are wireless and will move quietly through neighborhoods alongside the Rail Trail, portions of which have been completed or are already moving forward.

The innovative streetcar is envisioned to help in the fight against climate change, producing zero emissions and powered by batteries and hydrogen — and recharged with clean energy sourced from Central Coast Community Energy. The demonstration will also provide a proof-of-concept about what car-free commuting would look like, an important step in discussions about transportation equity for hardworking commuters who are getting to work via a car.

The free tickets for the demonstration event were reserved in hours but stand-by tickets will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis throughout the six-day demo. The public also is encouraged to come out and see the Coast Futura. Suggested viewing locations and route maps can be found at [www.coastfutura.org/event](http://www.coastfutura.org/event).

The 45-minute demonstration ride on the Coast Futura is taking place Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 16-17 in Watsonville, and Thursday, Oct. 21 through Sunday, Oct. 24, in Santa Cruz. The demonstration, originally planned for spring 2020 and delayed due to the pandemic, will follow current COVID safety guidelines that require all passengers to wear a mask. Rides on the Coast Futura streetcar will be free but must be reserved. Tickets will be available online starting Friday, Oct. 1.

The Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission authorized the demonstration as an opportunity for the public to see an example of a modern electric rail vehicle on two sections of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line track.

The demonstration routes will each be approximately 4 miles, with the Watsonville route running from the intersection of West Beach and Walker Streets to Harkins Slough and back, and the Santa Cruz route running from the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk to Capitola and back.

Sponsors of the demonstration include Central Coast Community Energy, the City of Santa Cruz, Lookout Local, and Graniterock.

Learn more at [coastfutura.org](http://coastfutura.org) or on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). Get on board the Coast Futura!

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