

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**RAIL DEMONSTRATION ROLLS OUT IN OCTOBER WITH CLEAN, QUIET,
ALL-ELECTRIC COAST FUTURA STREETCAR**

Free rides available Oct. 16-17 in Watsonville & Oct. 21-24 in Santa Cruz

SEPT. 16, 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, will take place 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.

Tickets will be free for the 45-minute demonstration ride on the Coast Futura, 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.

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

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