

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

# Metro revives Frederick Street service

*Transportation*  
Return of Route 6 was sought by seniors

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SANTA CRUZ — A bus route that local seniors had long sought to bring back is returning in the fall, after a unanimous vote Friday by the Santa Cruz Metro board of directors.

Though likely to be lightly used,

the move was hailed by seniors who have lobbied for the return of Route 6 for years. The line travels down Frederick Street near La Posada Retirement Community, and many residents there say a journey to the nearest current stop, on Soquel Avenue, is treacherous.

"I appeal to you all today that

we want to be in the (schedule) bulletin for the fall," said La Posada resident Sarah Schiffrin. "There's an old saying that where there's a will, there's a way. And I'm asking all of you to follow that saying."

Metro staff recommended against reinstating the route, which was last in service a decade ago, preferring sidewalk fixes along Frederick Street. They also

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said the cost would impact their ability to fix other parts of the bus system.

In a twist, the board voted to ask the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission to fund the \$130,000 year-long trial through surplus sales tax revenues. However, the Metro board committed to restarting

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the line in September regardless of the RTC's decision.

"It seems to me the obvious solution, to give us a yearly trial," said Lynn Gallagher, who uses a wheelchair and has worked to bring the line

back for several years.

Whether or when the RTC would take action is not yet known, but it typically decides on how to spend those excess revenues in the fall.

While La Posada is less than a quarter-mile away from Soquel Avenue, that intersection is heavily trafficked and can be dangerous

to pedestrians. In addition, the Frederick Street sidewalk between the complex and the bus stops is broken and badly in need of repairs.

"This was a promise made several years ago to the people of La Posada, that service would be restored to the people of La Posada when the district has more

money. The district does have more money," said Deborah Lane, a Metro board member who uses a wheelchair. "More and more people are becoming seniors and we need to take that into account."

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