



LoopWorks

LoopWorks Quarterly Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes for Dec. 22, 2022 at 12:00 pm (noon)

Location: 1421 Yellowstone Ave, Milpitas **or online:** <https://zoom.us/j/8238203495>

Meeting Ground Rules: Work on consensus basis * Step up / Step back * Try on the process * Don't interrupt / raise hands / use a stack * Turn off cell phones * Talk to everyone (not facilitators) * Expect unfinished business * Leave your ego at the door * Lead by example

1. Welcome
2. Accomplishments since previous Quarterly Meeting:
 - Of the 24 local candidates queried, **14 have responded with support for the PRT project**, including Congressman Ro Khanna, State Senator Aisha Wahab, and Assemblyman Alex Lee.
 - Issued Media Releases entitled 1) *Milpitas Candidates Declare Their Support for Advanced Transit Project* and 2) *LoopWorks Responds to Candidate Questions*
 - Public outreach continued with comments posts on 8 San Jose Spotlight articles, 1 San Jose Insight article, 1 Milpitas Beat article, and several on **Facebook:Milpitas Rants & Raves** and **Nextdoor**. We also tabled at the Halloween Party at Sunnyhills-Augustine Park, Saturday, October 29, and **Day On The Bay 2022**, October 8, at Alviso Marina County Park.
 - Outreach to opinion influencers continued an email and call to *Voices for Public Transportation*, a coalition of labor, community-based organizations, and equity advocates.
 - LoopWorks submitted a comment about PRT to 1) **the Metropolitan Transportation Commission** (MTC) that is considering a Transit Oriented Communities (TOC) Policy, 2) California Energy Commission's *2022–2023 Investment Plan Update for the Clean Transportation Program*, and 3) MTC's Nov. 17 webinar on Next Gen Freeways.
 - A logo was created for - and embroidered on - LoopWorks polo shirts for public appearances.
 - The registration for LOOPWORKS INC / LM2GFE4JPZG2 / is now active in the U.S. federal government's System for Award Management (SAM) – a first step in securing federal grants funds.
3. Initial investigation into **federal grant programs** uncovered a problem: PRT does not qualify for Federal Transit Agency (FTA) grants due to FTA's definition of the term "public transportation" and "transit" — "regular, continuing **shared-ride surface transportation** services that are open to the general public." Rob emailed Rep. Ro Khanna's office about this roadblock to PRT funding: "Apparently, the Secretary of Transportation (aka Mayor Pete) has lots of executive authority. Please have your team look into the possibility of him approving initial funding for the Milpitas PRT project. If that is possible, we can start working that path while updating the definition of "public transportation" (which I imagine to be a longer process)." No response is expected before January. Other federal grant programs are being investigated.
 - Rob submitted a **Project Pitch** to **America's Seed Fund** , and added them to the Trello board.

- Rob registered with the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) which intends to issue in early 2023, on behalf of the **Vehicle Technologies Office**, a Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) entitled “Fiscal Year 2023 Vehicle Technologies Office (VTO) Program Wide Funding Opportunity Announcement”. When they do, Rob will apply for a grant. Also, he added Vehicle Technologies Office to the Trello board and his name to the Teaming Partner List for *TPL-0000007: Teaming Partner List for for Vehicle Technologies Office* (Notice of Intent DE-FOA-0002892).

4. Milpitas City Council support – none of the 3 newly elected representatives publicly supports the Milpitas PRT project, and each is advised by PRT opponents. In considering the question “How shall we approach the Council?”, we concluded that individual information-sharing conversations would be best. At her swearing-in ceremony, new Council member Hon Lien said: “Working effectively with the Councilmembers and the City Staff is important to me. **Our government has rules and policies** that I look forward to implementing,” said [Hon Lien in her speech](#). “**We will use these as guidance to address issues such as** affordable housing, homelessness, public safety, **traffic**, and other issues.” Rob pointed out that PRT fits with City plans as outlined in the media release entitled [Personal Rapid Transit \(PRT\) complements Milpitas Metro Specific Plan](#) **Tiffany will invite Hon Lien to an in-person conversation to inform her about PRT and its effect on climate and congestion – and learn about Hon’s concerns and reservations. Working with the community is important at this time. **Carol will investigate whether Metro Area HOAs have monthly newsletters, meetings (whether social or official/governance), and/or other ways for LoopWorks to communicate with residents (other than handing out our postcards at the door). Do Mattos and Zanker Elementary Schools have public meetings we could attend?
5. Conversation about strategy for creation of the Milpitas PRT (open discussion). **Carol will learn more about the Spartan Superway project that will connect the north and south campuses of SJSU as detailed in a [28-minute video](#). If we were seeking funding/support from VTA sometime in the future, we have been advised to approach VTA’s Policy Committee members first. **Carol will stay in contact with other Bay Area PRT organizations (Glydways, Spartan Superway, and San Jose’s effort to connect Diridon Train Station and the airport). **Tam will check with the Milpitas Beat regarding what they want from submitted articles.
6. Adjournment

January 9 at noon is the next working meeting.