



LoopWorks

LoopWorks Quarterly Board Meeting Meeting Minutes for Dec. 20, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Location: 1421 Yellowstone Ave, or online at <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 over the past quarter:
 - Congressman Ro Khanna is emphasizing public transit in his [Facebook post](#), [radio interview](#), and call for a transportation roundtable in early 2024.
 - Public outreach continued with comment posts on 5 San Jose Spotlight articles, staffing a booth at Day on the Bay (Oct. 14), and contacting San Jose District 6 candidates and Assembly Transportation Committee chair Laura Friedman.
 - Outreach to investor groups was repeated.
 - An in-depth [interview](#) about PRT emphasized LoopWorks project and technology.
 - LoopWorks submitted [comments](#) regarding the CEC's Climate Innovation Program.
3. Federal Funding Update: **Federal Transit Agency (FTA)** grants depend upon the definition of the term "public transportation" and "transit" both of which exclude PRT due to their "shared-ride surface transportation" phrase. Rob is working with Tom Pyke, [Rep. Ro Khanna's District Director](#), and sent to him on May 17 a draft letter that 1) argues for a change in the definition of "public transportation", and 2) requests \$6M for design work of the Milpitas PRT project. It may be time to also discuss expanding recipient classes eligible for funding to include mutual benefit corporations. Although stalled for months, Tom recently emailed saying "I definitely would like PRT to be on our transportation policy agenda moving forward and part of the conversation when we do the [transportation] roundtable [in early 2024]. **USDOT** consists of the Office of the Secretary of Transportation and nine operating administrations (OAs), each with its own traditional jurisdiction over certain environmental and regulatory approvals. Sparked by a suggestion from a Podcar Conference attendee to contact the Secretary of Transportation, We are contacting many USDOT agencies starting with the [NETT Council](#). If a USDOT agency funds our project, giving them this early notice should ease the path for approval.
4. State Funding Update: California funds are reserved for specific purposes that don't include PRT, or for recipient classes that don't include mutual benefit corporations. [Legislation](#) to address both deficiencies has been submitted to 10 Senate/Assembly members who are also Transportation Committee members. A second email offering to split the proposed [legislation](#) from the [funding](#) for the Milpitas PRT project was sent to Asm. Alex Lee, Sen. Aisha Wahab, and Rep. Ro Khanna.
5. Podcar City Conference – Here are highlights:
 - Most memorable quote: *Collaborate, Cooperate, and Coordinate!*
 - 60% of trips are 5 miles or less, making PRT a viable alternative for many.
 - [ModuTram](#) expects to open a system in Oaxaca, Mexico for service in late 2024.
 - [Swyft Cities](#) expects to open its New Zealand system for service in late 2025
 - [Glydways](#) expects to open the [Diridon-Airport Connector](#) for service in 2028

- **Advanced** Transit Communities
6. Conversation about strategy for creating the Milpitas PRT. Pursue legislative opportunities. Contact USDOT Secretary's office. Outreach to businesses, HOAs, local community groups, city commissions, property owners, and Metro Area residents. Is a digital model (using [Podaris](#)) possible and valuable? **rob will pursue. College Extension may have an intern opportunity to create a model cab, station, guideway, and/or system layout. **Carol will investigate the AI community building the future. <https://huggingface.co/> is a machine learning (AI) platform that may answer PRT questions. **Paul will contact the Bay Area rep for AIESEC.

January 10, 2024 at 4:00 pm is the next working meeting.