



LoopWorks

LoopWorks Quarterly Board Meeting

Meeting Minutes for Sept. 13, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Location (online only): <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:
 - Rob [presented the project](#) to the Milpitas City Council Transportation Subcommittee on June 19 with 5 local activists attending.
 - Public outreach continued with comment posts on 4 San Jose Spotlight articles, staffing a booth at the June 17 Juneteenth event, and sharing treats and PRT postcards at various community events.
 - Two two [letters of support](#) were added to the website, and a new section at the bottom of the home page entitled “[Is PRT a disruptive technology?](#)”.
 - Attendance at the Silicon Valley Bike Summit on Aug. 24 led to a PRT conversation with Sunnyvale Council member Linda Sell and an introduction to Kerry Haywood, Executive Director of the Moffett Park Business Group.
 - In-person funding appeals to VTA's Diridon Station Joint Policy Advisory Board, VTA Board of Directors, and the County's Democratic Central Committee were supplemented by 1) email appeals to the BART Board of Directors and BART Accessibility Task Force (BATF), and 2) an on-air appeal to listeners of the Thom Hartmann Program.
 - Rob met and emailed the Rail Planning Manager in SJ's Dept. of Transportation, Brian Stanke, who is heading up San Jose's PRT project (Diridon-to-Airport connection) under Ramses Madou.
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. Although stalled for months, Tom recently committed to working our issue in the coming weeks. Rob asked for an in-person meeting. Investigations into 3 other Federal funding opportunities found our project to be a good fit, but found LoopWorks ineligible.
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. Advanced transit was omitted from the Senate/Assembly Joint Transportation Committee hearing and its [Background Paper](#). We are working with Martha Kreeger, staffer to Sen. Aisha Wahab who represents Milpitas and is a member of the Transportation Committee. Although additional information was sent to Ms. Kreeger on Aug. 19, she now has COVID. **Rob will contact Ms. Kreeger the week of Sept. 18.
5. Milpitas City Council support – presentation to City Council Transportation Subcommittee (Mayor Montano and Vice-Mayor Chua) on June 14 surfaced resistance - and an opening for conversation once

funding is secured.

6. Conversation about strategy for creation of the Milpitas PRT. While our primary focus is securing funding, outreach to businesses, HOAs, local community groups, city commissions, property owners, and Metro Area residents will continue as opportunities arise. Is a model possible and valuable? While possible (especially with 3-D printing), their value is questionable given results of those done by [Spartan Superway](#) teams. Is bringing the cab/bogie from Minnesota (State Fair) worthwhile? While storing it on Rob's driveway is possible, moving it to/from various venues presents challenges. **Rob will ask Prof. Anderson about the cab/bogie. **Rob will ask the College Extension folks about the possibility of an intern creating a model cab and guideway. **Rob, **Carol, and **Paul will staff a booth at Day on the Bay (Oct. 14, 10am – 3pm). [4Imprint.com](#) sells promotional products that we could use as handouts. **Carol will think about giving away 2" potted plants at Day on the Bay. **Rob will review our handout card message, update as appropriate, and get more printed if necessary.

September 27 at 4:00 pm is the next working meeting.