



LoopWorks

LoopWorks Quarterly Members Meeting

Meeting Minutes for December 14, 2024 at 10:00 am

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 over the past 2 quarters:

- A Constant Contact account was created, email lists were added, and it was used for multiple email campaigns.
- A [Media](#) page was added to our website.
- Met with Milpitas Councilmember Hon Lien about the PRT project.
- Zoomed with Mike Thompson, VP Project Development of Plenary Americas, the company partially bankrolling the Diridon-Airport Connector; Rob followed-up with an email.
- Attended *NEX Level: The Convening for CA's Clean Energy Entrepreneurs* on October 3rd, 2024 in Berkeley, and followed-up with 3 leads.
- Attended the *Thrive Summit for Bay Area Transportation People*, and followed up with emails to 3 attendees.
- Met with Dave Bini, President of the Santa Clara and San Benito Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, and followed-up with emails to him and Rod Diridon.
- Attended PolitiBeat and met Manu Martinez of KCXU-FM (92.7 FM), a low-power FM station serving downtown San Jose, who offered to support our public outreach efforts; he used AI tools to generate 2 *Deep Dive* podcast episodes discussing PRT [potential](#) and [obstacles](#), and a draft **ChatBot** for our home page.
- Candidates at the Milpitas Beat-sponsored Mayoral **Candidate Forum** on October 9 were asked a question about making substantial changes to reduce CO2 emissions, but they responded with dodges rather than direct answers; view the 5-minute segment starting at 48:20 into this [video](#).
- Created an Instagram account for LoopWorks at <https://www.instagram.com/milpitasprt/>
- Hosted a Transit Forum entitled *BART-Caltrain Connection: Another Way?*, that entailed lots of effort including creating a [webpage](#) that summarizes most of the efforts including sending invitations to 115 organizations, creating a fishbowl seating chart, enrolling a facilitator, and hiring Social Ground Foundation to live-stream and [record](#) the event.
- Public outreach continued with attendance (and literature distribution) at Milpitas Movie Night, questions at multiple Community Breakfasts, comment post on 1 San Jose Spotlight article, tabling at the Milpitas Juneteenth event and Day on the Bay, brief conversations with MHS Principle Greg Wohlman, MUSD Superintendent Cheryl Jordan, Marina City Clerk (Anita), and Marina Senior Engineer (Nick McIlroy, AICP, Senior Planner).
- Submitted a 2024 Transit Month Community [Grant Application](#) for our Transit Forum (denied).
- Submitted a 2024 Silicon Valley Bike Summit Proposal to present PRT (denied).
- Hosted the LoopWorks **5-Year Update** including a Media Release, a slide show, an article in the SBPA newsletter (500 people), and email invitations to SBPA members, PRT boosters, San Jose Spotlight reporter B. Sakura Cannestra, 2024 candidates, and elected representatives.

- Carol called over 30 people to invite them to the **5-Year Update** which was [recorded and is now online](#).
- 3. Federal Funding Update: Originally, we thought that 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. We’ve since learned that federal funding went to Automated People Movers (APM), a subset of Automated Transportation Networks (ATN) - like PRT! Persistent pressure on Ro Khanna’s Chief of Staff (Tom Pyke) for the past 3 years resulted in 1) Ro’s call for a Transportation Forum in August 2023 (which has not happened), and 2) Ro’s agreement at his Nov. 9 Town Hall to investigate options.
LoopWorks will submit a concept paper for a [SPARKS grant](#) from ARPA-E.
Glydways estimates about 5,000 cities on Earth need mass transit systems, but only 178 cities have one.
- 4. State Funding Update: State Senator Wahab left the Senate Transportation Committee.
- 5. Foundation Funding: If accepted, LoopWorks will apply for support from [Mark1](#), a Developer-as-a-Service for capital intensive, first of a kind industrial climate technologies. They work with technology companies to maximize the opportunity for deploying their first commercial-scale projects.
- 6. Milpitas City Council support – depends upon securing funding, strong public support, or changing Council membership through an election.
Election Results: The election results could hardly have been worse for the project at both the national and local levels. Because the podcar project got no support from any candidates, we did not spend the expected \$2000 on pro-candidate advertising. Instead, Rob posted many times on social media (3 Facebook groups plus Nextdoor) appeals to vote for someone besides Montano and Chua; they won anyway. William Lam, who says he wants transparency and accountability, won the other Council seat – but has not responded to multiple outreach attempts.
- 7. **Social Media Campaign** – LoopWorks retained the services of [Social Ground Foundation](#) for 4 months to establish and populate an [Instagram](#) account, create a [YouTube](#) channel, and post content to our [Facebook](#) account. **Rob will investigate Constant Contact’s multi-media control functions to post on our various channels.
- 8. VTA Funding: Extend the “[mosquito strategy](#)” by publicly challenging the BART Burrow with the question “With Trump Republicans controlling D.C., what is the likelihood of the promised \$5B for the BART Burrow actually showing up?” [Plan B](#) = 80 podcar stops serving 10 square-miles for just \$1B. Milpitas City Council support for [Plan B](#) unlikely unless VTA Board takes an interest.
- 9. **AI (learning machines) and LoopWorks**
Manu Martinez of KCXU-FM used AI tools to generate 2 Deep Dive episodes discussing PRT [potential](#) and [obstacles](#). A [media release](#) was written and distributed.
Manu Martinez of KCXU-FM created a [ChatBot](#) for our home page. **Shall Rob pursue incorporating it into our website? YES** **Rob will work with Manu to create a chatbot for our home page.
Is a financial contribution to KCXU appropriate? YES How much? \$250 **Rob will provide [KCXU donation info](#) to Tam.
Mail check for \$250 to:
KCXU, Inc.
749 Story Road, Suite 10
San Jose, CA 95122

10. Conversation about strategy for creation of the Milpitas PRT. Rob was supported in his multi-pronged efforts to attract resources to the project.

11. Final Comments - the [Caring Neighbors Community Choir](#) is a vibrant nonprofit choir group in Milpitas, CA. We're not just any choir; we're a harmonious blend of dedicated volunteers, each with a shared passion for melody and a fervor to make a difference.

[Caring Neighbors Community Choir Calendar](#)

Monday, December 9, 2024 Downtown San Jose Christmas In The Park @ 7pm

Monday, December 16, 2024 Downtown San Jose Christmas In The Park @ 7pm

Please call 855-825-3861 music director extension -1 for more information

12. Adjournment