



LoopWorks

LoopWorks Annual Members Meeting

Meeting Minutes and Election Results for June 1, 2024 at 3:00 pm

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 quarter:
 - Public outreach continued with public-forum comments to 8 VTA Committees, comment postings on 2 San Jose Spotlight articles, tabling at the Small Business Expo on April 20, brief conversations with Greg Richardson (VTA's CFO and General Manager) and Eugene Bradley (transit-rider advocate), Zoom meeting with Patrick Ahrens (AD 26 candidate), and an extensive email to Nassim Nouri, leader in the Green Party of Santa Clara County.
 - An 8-part series of 600-word articles highlighting the contrast between a 4-station BART Burrow and 800-station PRT network was offered to the San Jose Spotlight. (no response)
 - When the contrast between cost of the BART Burrow vs. a PRT corridor was raised with Cong. Ro Khanna during his interview by the Working Families Party, he invited input about alternatives to the BART Burrow, which we provided; copies were sent to Daniel Borenstein (Bay Area News Group Opinion Editor), and to AD 26 candidates Tara Sreekrishnan and Patrick Ahrens.
 - A [script](#) for approaching candidates about supporting the PRT project was written that includes a list of potential actions.
 - Our "[mosquito strategy](#)" began with emails to various electeds questioning whether VTA can afford to operate the BART Burrow.
 - Our [TIRCP legislation](#) proposal was again sent to Sen. Wahab's staffer, Asm. Lee's staffer, and to Tara Sreekrishnan (AD 26 candidate) who responded "Wow! I would definitely be interested in introducing this legislation!"
 - SB 1031, MTC's plan to fund Bay Area transportation with a sales tax measure on the 2026 ballot, "has exposed the deep fissures among Bay Area leaders." Voices for Public Transportation Coalition (VPT) says "that a 2026 Regional Measure is critical to the survival of our public transportation systems".
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. Despite meeting with Ro Khanna's Chief of Staff nearly 2 years ago, and Ro's call for a Transportation Forum, nothing notable has occurred.
4. State Funding Update: A proposal for [TIRCP legislation](#) to allow PRT to compete for rail funding was sent to 5 State Senators and 6 Assembly members, all of whom are members of their respective Transportation Committees. No discussions or even questions followed. Additionally, it was sent to staffers in Asm. Alex Lee's and Sen. Aisha Wahab's offices with whom Rob had subsequently conversed. Still no response.

5. Milpitas City Council support – depends upon securing funding or changing Council membership through an election. We’ve done lots of work to secure funding, so now we’ll invest time/attention into educating the public about the project and which candidates support it - aka the Election Information Campaign. A [survey of PRT support](#) has been prepared for, and emailed to, [candidates in various races](#). As mentioned in the emails, LoopWorks inform voters about [candidate support for the PRT project](#). To avoid any lobbyist fees charged by the City, Rob will henceforth identify time spent to influence the City Council or MUSD Board on his timecard, and no financial benefit shall flow to him in return for any of those hours.

6. **Election Information Campaign** – LoopWorks will advertise which candidates support the PRT project. Rob spoke with Tim Alcorn about his social media business ([Social Ground Foundation](#)), cost of services, and skills. Meta (Facebook and Instagram) ads can be targeted by age and location (as small as 1-mile radius/4 square miles) presenting opportunities for different messaging. For non-profits, Tim charges \$500/month to manage it all, and he’s willing to train an intern to take over the ongoing work. **Shall we retain Tim’s services for the 4 months preceding the November election (starting in July) for a cost of \$2000?** Does that include cost of ads? What do we get for our money? Will he help create content or edit/polish content? **Rob will seek answers to these questions. If voters shift the balance of power on the Council to favor the PRT project, then continuing with his service would help in persuading the Council to support PRT. In addition to Tim’s services, advertising costs for various communications channels (Meta, Chamber, Nextdoor, Milpitas Beat, etc.) may be needed. Current account balance exceeds \$11,000. **How much shall LoopWorks invest to inform/enlighten the public about candidate support of PRT? Up to \$3000.**

7. **PRT Project Public Forum:** 5-year update presentation at the Milpitas Library Auditorium on Aug. 8 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm (showtime 7:00 to 8:00 pm) with this purpose: *Public education about status of the Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) Demonstration Project in the Metro Area of Milpitas.* Invite transit advocates, political activists, PRT boosters, media outlets, 2024 candidates, and elected representatives. Advertise on social media using services of Tim Alcorn. Issue a Media Release. PROGRAM: Introductions. Accomplishments. PRT vs. Establishment Inertia. Election Opportunity. Call to Action - get involved in elections. Thank you/wrap up. 8:00-8:30pm networking. **Rob will draft a presentation slide deck for review. **Shall we employ [Social Ground Foundation](#) to provide A/V support (estimated cost = \$700)? NO**

8. **BART-Caltrain Connection: Another Way?** - Extend the “[mosquito strategy](#)” by publicly challenging the BART Burrow. **Shall LoopWorks sponsor a public discussion of the BART Burrow** on Thursday, Sept. 5, 6:30pm – 8:00 pm in the Library Auditorium under the title *BART-Caltrain Connection: Another Way?* By using an [open fishbowl conversation](#) format, we expect to clarify for attendees and Zoomers what is happening, and start community thinking about next steps. Invite [VTA](#), transit advocates, SBPA members, PRT boosters, Ron Gonzales, Rod Diridon, Green Party, Sierra Club, Daniel Borenstein (Merc-News), San Jose Spotlight, San Jose Insider, 2024 candidates, and elected representatives. Advertise on social media using services of Tim Alcorn. Issue a Media Release. LoopWorks will declare its interest in the conversation as seeking \$6M for pre-development work on the [Milpitas PRT Demonstration Project](#). Prior to starting the conversation, these public statements will be shared:
 - Cost of the 4-station BART Extension Phase II (aka BART Burrow) = \$12.8 billion, 55K daily passengers, completion date 2037 (well past when dramatic reductions in CO2 emissions required).
 - Rectangular PRT network 5 miles long and 2 miles wide (10 square-miles) to connect the 3-miles-apart stations will offer 80 stations, better service, and sooner for \$1B.
 - Although the VTA Board has the authority to redirect funding scheduled for the BART Burrow, they are unlikely to do so without an example to see and ride.
 Rob will seek a facilitator/host for the event. **Shall we employ [Social Ground Foundation](#) to provide A/V support (estimated cost = \$700)? **Rob will better define the scope, format, and interest in

this project before talking with Tim about A/V services.

9. Conversation about strategy for creation of the Milpitas PRT. In service of informing voters, we will reach out to businesses, HOAs, local community groups, city commissions, property owners, and Metro Area residents.
10. Election of 2 Directors – Financial Director/Treasurer and Worker Director/Secretary. – *As a Community Member, you have the right to vote on the following Board of Director positions. Please clearly mark your votes for each on the ballot below. Write-in candidates must be willing to serve in order to be elected. You may vote by marking the following ballot to indicate your vote on each Director, and returning this ballot via email to info@MilpitasPRT.com or sending/bringing the hard copy to 1421 Yellowstone Ave, Milpitas, CA 95035.*

Financial Director

 4 Tamara Overacker
 _____ (write-in candidate)
 withhold vote

Worker Director

 4 Robert Means
 _____ (write-in candidate)
 withhold vote

11. Final Comments

12. Adjournment