



LoopWorks

LoopWorks Quarterly Board Meeting Meeting Minutes for March 27, 2024 at 6:00 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:
 - An [Environmental page](#) was added to our website.
 - Public outreach continued with comments posted on 7 San Jose Spotlight articles, 1 San Jose Inside article, and 1 Milpitas Beat article; other efforts included input to [Exploring the Future of Public Transportation Research: A National Online Dialogue](#), an email to the [RAISE](#) funding coordinator, an email to the [Bay Area Transportation Working Group](#), Zooms with So. Cal. PRT supporters, and a [3-minute segment](#) on the Thom Hartmann Program.
 - Outreach with tailored messages to VTA included submitting both written and verbal comments to the Diridon Station Joint Policy Advisory Board (JPAB), an email to VTA CEO Carolyn Gonot, and 2-minute in-person Public Forum talks to [8 VTA Committee meetings](#) (Technical Advisory Committee, and Citizens Advisory Committee, Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Committee for Transportation Mobility & Accessibility, Policy Advisory Committee, Congestion Management Program & Planning Committee, Administration & Finance Committee, and 2016 Measure B Citizens Oversight Committee).
 - Outreach to [8 USDOT agencies](#) (4 via emails, and 4 via phone calls).
 - The process of securing 2 interns from San Jose City College has progressed to signing of the MOU.
 - [Draft legislation](#) was sent to 10 California legislators (4 Senators and 6 Assembly members), all of whom are members of their respective Transportation Committees.
 - The Milpitas Chamber of Commerce wrote a [letter of support](#) for the dual-loop PRT project, and LoopWorks sent a [media release](#) about it.
 - Individual exploratory emails were sent to hosts of [6 programs](#) broadcasting on KPFA.
 - Caught up on taxes.
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. Tom Pyke, [Rep. Ro Khanna's District Director](#), continually gets updates on how this project is stalled by legal rules. At his March 16, 2024, Town Hall Meeting, Ro said the schedule for the previously promised Transportation Roundtable is planned for Spring or early Summer.
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. LoopWorks reached out to [8 USDOT agencies](#) (4 via emails, and 4 via phone calls).
4. State Funding Update: California funds are reserved for specific purposes that don't include PRT, and 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 Milpitas PRT

project funding was sent to Asm. Alex Lee, Sen. Aisha Wahab, and Cong. Ro Khanna.

5. VTA Funding: Santa Clara VTA sales tax for BART, [Measure B](#) (passed in November 2008) authorized a “1/8 cent sales tax to operate/maintain/improve the 16.1 mile Santa Clara County BART extension” as a requirement for federal funding. The [BayRail Alliance issued a memo](#) questioning whether Measure B was sufficient. Emails questioning whether VTA can afford to operate the BART Burrow were sent to Tom Pyke (Ro Khanna’s Chief of Staff) and copied to Sudhanshu Jain (Santa Clara City Council), Linda Sell (Sunnyvale City Council), Otto Lee’s office (SCC Supervisor, D3), Alicia Lawrence (staffer at Aisha Wahab’s office), and Ramses Madou (staffer at City of San Jose). A conversation with [Supervisor Otto Lee](#) included a note from his Transportation Aide that “he would like to see the funding fully secured before taking any actions of support.” [Beware the fury of a patient man](#).

Discussion: Shall we offer an 8-part series of 600-word articles to the San Jose Spotlight highlighting the contrast between a 4-station BART Burrow and 800-station PRT network? (See [Appendix A](#)). YES.

6. Outreach Opportunities:

Question: Shall Rob a proposal for the [14th Annual Silicon Valley Bike Summit](#)? YES. This one-day conference aims to enlighten the community on critical bicycling issues in the area while fostering collaboration among various stakeholders in the field. Attendees can expect engaging sessions featuring key speakers, panel discussions, and ample networking opportunities.

Discussion: Shall LoopWorks participate in the upcoming [Small Business Expo](#) on April 20th, 11am – 4pm, at 691 S Milpitas Blvd, Milpitas? YES. “Join us at the Small Business Expo for a day filled with networking, learning, and inspiration! Whether you're a seasoned entrepreneur or just starting out, this expo is the perfect opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals, discover new services to boost your resources, and gain valuable insights from industry experts!” The booth fee is \$50.

Discussion: MUSD Board member Anu Nakka and ex-Planning Commissioner Bill Chuan have announced runs for City Council, while Council member Hon Lien runs for Mayor. Shall Rob engage them on the PRT project, and how? What about Mayor Montano and Council member Evelyn Chua? Shall we let voters know where candidates stand on the PRT project ([as we did in 2022](#))? **Rob will write a script, and present it for review by others. [Dumb it down! Sell safety/emergency response, increased City revenue, proof of concept => expansion. Ask questions. Do you agree that we’re on the right path?]

Question: Shall Rob attend the Techonomy Climate 2024 for \$99? YES

Explore the future of climate solutions at *Techonomy Climate 2024: Encoding Resilience*, where innovation meets urgency. Join experts, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, investors, and tech pioneers as we navigate the complexities of the climate crisis and unprecedented global challenges. These cross-industry conversations strive for a diversified approach, harnessing the power of technology to accelerate positive change and propel us towards a sustainable future. Canary Media Community Members are invited to join us and can [register](#) for a discounted rate of \$99 (normally \$299) using code CANARYXTE200. April 3rd, 2024, 9am-5pm at The Ameswell Hotel Mountain View • 800 Moffett Blvd, Mountain View, CA 94043

7. Conversation about strategy for creating the Milpitas PRT. Outreach will shift to local businesses, HOAs, community groups, city commissions, property owners, and Metro Area residents. How will SJCC college extension interns contribute to LoopWorks (create a model cab, station, guideway, and/or system layout, animation, public outreach)? Their skills and interests will guide their contributions. If confirmation of BART’s O&M problem is real, we will emphasize the issue to get VTA’s attention. **Rob will invite ex-VTA staffer Jim Lawson to lunch/drinks. In reaching out to local businesses, **Rob will include larger corporations located near the project by contacting their Human Resources/external affairs people.

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

Appendix A

Proposed 8-part series of 600-word articles for San Jose Spotlight

- 1) Introduction to PRT – technology, costs (capital and O&M), environmental, service level, network vs. corridor, PRT flavors, Milpitas PRT project
- 2) BART Burrow History – cost and completion date projections, corridor vs. network, annual O&M expenses, funding sources
- 3) PRT Corridor vs. BART Burrow - \$180M vs. \$12800M, 8 stations/coverage vs. 4 stations, 30 mph vs. 40 mph, 2 airport stations, trip times
- 4) PRT Network vs. BART Burrow - \$7B vs. \$12.8B, 800 stations vs. 4 stations, transit catchment area, 30 mph vs. 40 mph, trip times
- 5) PRT Network vs. Establishment Inertia – 50 years of establishment inertia, foundation/investor/federal/state non-response, Upton [Sinclair quote](#), [Overton Window](#), [Semmelweis Reflex](#), Max Planck quote (A scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents and making them see the light, but rather because its opponents eventually die and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it.)
- 6) BART O&M Cost – history of O&M estimates/results, jeopardized federal funding, solutions?, Milpitas PRT project
- 7) PRT Potential – financial, environmental, service level, non-human payloads
- 8) VTA's Response – history of VTA responses, grand Jury reports, current response (both Board and committees)