



LoopWorks

LoopWorks Annual Members Meeting Meeting Minutes for June 27, 2026 at 10:00 am

Locations: online: <https://zoom.us/j/8238203495>

physical: 1421 Yellowstone Ave, Milpitas

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 and changes over the past 2 quarters:

- a) LoopWorks joined the Santa Cruz County PRT advocacy group (<https://www.sccrtc.org/>) in resisting the coastal rail project which helped derail the project.
- b) A new [report](#) outlines potential BART service cuts without a new funding measure.
- c) Outreach included an email to John Yi <John.yi@tomsteyer.com> on Tom Steyer's campaign suggesting Personal Rapid Transit (PRT/podcars) as a State issue, and one to Ethan Agarwal's campaign (campaign@ea4ca.com) about his commitments to "Fix Transportation and Save BART".
- d) VTA Board has been repeatedly advised that multiple threats from the federal government have put funding for the BART Burrow at risk.
- e) A one-page list of [Points for transit planners to consider about PRT](#) was distributed as a Media Release, and included in the Agenda Packets of VTA Board meetings ([Jan. 8](#), [Feb. 5](#), [Apr. 17](#), [May 7](#), and [June 6](#)), Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee on [Jan. 14](#), Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) on [Jan. 14](#), the Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) on [Jan. 14](#), Committee for Transportation Mobility & Accessibility (CTMA) on [Jan. 15](#), and Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) on [Jan. 15](#).
- f) Comments were submitted to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), Bicycle Advisory Committee, and Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC).
- g) Wrote and distributed [Response to VTA Board of Directors Workshop on VTA's Future of Transportation](#).
- h) In response to an article in RMI's (Rocky Mountain Institute) newsletter, a comment was submitted on April 23 through Drawdown's web page: <https://drawdown.org/contact> that began with: "Hi Folks, After perusing your Enhance Public Transit web page and the different types of public transit listed, I did not see any reference to Personal Rapid Transit (PRT, or podcars). ..."
- i) Dr. J. Edward Anderson (Ed), father of PRT, died: [May 15, 1927 - February 3, 2026](#)
Fridley, MN - Dr. J. Edward "Ed" Anderson passed away on February 3, 2026. A visionary engineer, educator, and public intellectual, he devoted his life to advancing knowledge and inspiring others.
- j) Comments were added to the April 27 Spotlight article entitled [VTA touts spending plan for possible Bay Area sales tax increase](#), and the May 7 Spotlight article entitled [Best way to honor Santa Clara County transit icon — keep building](#).
- k) Lobbying efforts included 1) meeting with San Jose Council member Anthony Tordillos, followed by a [summary email](#), and 2) Zoom conversation with Sam Sargent (sam.sargent@vta.org, 408-250-9567), VTA's Director of Strategy and Transformation, with [follow-up emails](#).
- l) A request to speak to the Rotary Club of San Jose was declined by the Program Committee meeting until LoopWorks has more funding and/or a local government support.
- m) Between January and the March 26 event, a public forum entitled [Does Santa Cruz County need podcars?](#) was created that entailed 1) securing a venue, insurance, mediator/moderator, A/V tech, and 2

displays of the proposed Santa Cruz PRT system, 2) inviting 75 local organizations, 11 panelists, and 14 public officials, 3) advertising through 14 channels, and 4) following up with [emails addressing various issues](#).

- n) Rob became a member of the VTA Great Mall Housing Advisory Group as a representative of the community and a transportation expert from LoopWorks.
 - o) Attempts to submit a SPARKS (Spurring Projects To Advance Energy Research And Knowledge Swiftly) grant request were thwarted by the intake system.
 - p) Despite Assemblymember Alex Lee's focus on social housing and not being on the Transportation Committee, his staffer at the Milpitas Juneteenth event encouraged Rob to submit our legislative proposal – and he did.
3. **Federal Funding Update:** The U.S. Department of Transportation's aversion to funding California's rail projects apparently is part of the hate-on-California behavior of the current regime. So, funding won't be available for several years even if we force the regime out of power in 2029. We don't know what mess will we inherit because the regime is actively destroying our government agencies, along with standard policies and procedures. [How long will it take to rebuild a system](#) that solicits, evaluates, and grants funding? And will the system be the same, or a new one be created with different rules and priorities?
4. **State Funding Update:** Sen. Dave Cortese, chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, again chose to support other bills rather than our [legislative proposal](#).
5. **Valley Transportation Authority (VTA):** We will continue selling benefits to VTA Committees and elected officials, while also calling out the BART Burrow to the general public. Apparently, education of VTA Board members about PRT is required, so comments to them are starting with [Points for transit planners to consider about PRT](#).
Despite over a year of warnings, VTA is still reluctant to change direction, or even discuss the problem of not getting the \$5B from the feds to pay for the BART Burrow; apparently, the Board members expect that somehow funding will come.
If the transit measure on November's ballot does not pass, VTA will have financial problems. If the measure does pass, Mayor Mahan requires that VTA use the money to develop a new business plan. Unfortunately, the VTA's consultant dismissed PRT out of hand – prompting a [Response to VTA Board of Directors Workshop on VTA's Future of Transportation](#). **Rob will issue a Media Release about the document.
Mayor Mahan is responsive to business interests. Now, after lobbying the Mayor's Senior Transportation Policy Advisor and Council member Anthony Tordillos, and reaching out to San José Downtown Association and Rotary Club of San José, **Rob will contact downtown neighborhood associations.
- The [VTA Board of Directors](#) meets on the first Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the County Government Center, 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose. **Public Comments to the Board** can be submitted orally (1-minute limit) early in the meeting (Item 4 on the [Agenda](#)), or via Zoom (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84986235523>). To ensure your comments get into the Minutes, submit them in writing a day or more before the meeting via email to board.secretary@vta.org with a note they are for the up-coming Directors meeting under Public Comments.
6. **Milpitas City Council:** Their support depends upon securing funding or changing Council membership through an election. Is it time to lobby Council candidates? Perhaps the East Valley Democratic Club could create a questionnaire for candidates that seeks their position on the PRT Demonstration Project. [[Summer Social](#) - East Valley Democratic Club, Saturday, July 18th, 2026 3pm-7pm]
Three candidates are challenging the incumbents: Hon Lien for Mayor, Bill Chuan and Seema Kanani for City Council.

7. **Financial Report:** Transition from Poppy Bank to Keypoint Credit Union continues. **Tam will close out the Poppy account. **Rob will work with Tam to enter the Key Point website.
8. **Conversation about strategy for creation of the Milpitas PRT.** Santa Cruz PRT group is meeting on June 28, 10:00 am, and Rob will attend. VTA continues to be the primary target for funding because they have the money, the responsibility/authority, and the mission (innovation). Shall Rob educate City Council about PRT as with VTA's Board? Yes, and offer examples of existing/soon-to-be PRT systems. **Carol will talk with nature folks (Sierra Club, Open Space District, etc.) about the possibility of PRT applications in nature areas. **Paul will check with architectural/development companies offering a PRT presentation. **Rob will contact MacKenzie Scott, the ex-wife of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, who is giving away \$26 billion to various charitable organizations since her divorce.

An intuitive, web-based tool — S.A.M ([Stakeholder Analysis and Mapping](#)) — simplifies the process of creating insightful visualizations of stakeholder relationships and power dynamics for projects in all sectors, communities, and regions. This free, user-friendly, web-based tool will enable all types of decision makers - communities, labor groups, project developers, community-based organizations (CBOs), local, state, and federal officials, etc. to create clear visualizations of local stakeholder relationships and real-time power dynamics and gain deeper insights into the local context and socio-economic landscape. Who wants to investigate SAM for use by LoopWorks? (To learn more about this tool and how to use it, please visit our [About](#) and [Instructions](#) pages.) **Mike will investigate S.A.M., and report what he learns.

9. Election of 2 Directors – Financial Director and Worker Director (Governance Director/President and Community Director are continuing). – *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 before the end of this meeting.*

Financial Director

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

Worker Director

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

(Continuing their roles for the next year are Governance Director/President Paul Okoye and Community Director Mike Pelizzari.)

Votes were received from Tamara Overacker, Mike Pelizzari, Carol, Paul, and Rob Means.

10. Final Comments
None.
11. Adjournment