



LoopWorks

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release: August 15, 2024

Contact: LoopWorks

1421 Yellowstone Ave, Milpitas, CA 95035

Attn: Rob Means, Rob@MilpitasPRT.com

BART-Caltrain Connection: Another Way?

Stakeholders in transit's future share a live conversation with We the People.

Due to projected costs exceeding \$12B, combined with a low return on investment, some community [leaders are questioning](#) the use of BART technology to connect the Berryessa BART Station with the Diridon Caltrain Station. The public is invited to join a public conversation about the future of local transit on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm in the Milpitas Library Auditorium, 160 N Main Street.

Our Climate Crisis requires us to reduce CO₂ emissions quickly - and public transit must be part of the solution. Here in Santa Clara County, Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) plans a \$12B mega-project that will do nothing to solve our congestion and Climate problems until 2037 or later - if we can pay for it!

Referring to BART Extension Phase II, the Mercury-News Editorial of June 20, 2024 said "This project has been driven by politics rather than sound policy and financial planning." Bay Area News Group Opinion Editor Daniel Borenstein went further: "As we editorialized in 2021, 2022, and 2023, as costs keep rising and VTA transparency remains abysmal, the BART extension should be subjected to complete and rigorous independent review. But it's become clear that VTA leaders are not about to let that happen."



That inspired LoopWorks Secretary Rob Means to suggest sponsoring a transit forum. "VTA invested in pre-development work to learn how expensive the BART Burrow will be. Now is the time to re-evaluate spending \$12B on a transportation technology developed in the 1960's."

[LoopWorks](#), leader of the Milpitas Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) [project](#), is hosting the transit forum using an [open fishbowl conversation format](#). Four panelists and the moderator will occupy the center circle/fishbowl of 6 chairs, leaving one chair empty. After the moderator introduces the topic, panelists start the discussion. Attendees outside the fishbowl listen in on the conversation; those wishing to participate do so by taking the empty seat. Attendees and online viewers are expected to quickly grasp current transit challenges, and start community-level thinking about next steps.

The transit forum will be moderated by Belinda Quesada, KCXU (92.7 FM) radio host and producer. Panelists will represent 4 segments of our community including an advanced transit expert, a VTA spokesperson, a champion for transit riders, and an environmentalist. Due to the tight schedule, we plan

to start promptly at 6:30 pm. Because the Milpitas Library Auditorium is limited to 120 people, please [RSVP here](#) if you plan to attend in person. Visit the [BART-Caltrain Connection webpage](#) for details, agenda, list of invitees, and streaming link.

LoopWorks is a [non-profit mutual-benefit corporation](#) with a governance structure that is local, democratic, and balanced. For more information, visit [MilpitasPRT.com](#) or email info@MilpitasPRT.com.

####

<https://milpitasprt.com/wp-content/uploads/media-release-2024Aug15.pdf>