



LoopWorks

LoopWorks Quarterly Members Meeting

Meeting Minutes for December 31, 2025 at noon (12:00 pm)

Location: 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) An [Op-Ed](#) by SBPA that challenges the BART Burrow was printed by Bay Area News Group (BANG), and an accompanying [media release](#) was shared through a number of channels.
- b) LoopWorks joined the Santa Cruz County PRT advocacy group (<https://www.sccrtc.org/>) in resisting the coastal rail project, and promoting PRT as the solution to area congestion and transit needs.
- c) The coastal rail portion of the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail (ZEPRT) project in Santa Cruz County was derailed by 1) its very high costs and 2) lobbying by the SCPRT group for a solution that better supports diverse transportation needs, safe access, and connection to populated areas.
- 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 [6-minute call-in](#) to the Thom Hartmann Program and its nationwide listeners included an introduction to PRT and astute host comments.
- f) Public Comments were offered to VTA committees: Administration & Finance (A&F) Committee (9/18), (8/21/2025), BART Silicon Valley (BSV) Phase II Oversight Committee (8/14, 9/11), and Committee for Transportation Mobility & Accessibility (9/11).
- g) Lobbying efforts continued with David Tran (Senior Transportation Policy Advisor to San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan), Council member Anthony Tordillos, Santa Cruz's Asm. Gail Pellerin's Field Representative Lisette Jones, Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Dave Cortese's office (Sacto. Chief of Staff), Santa Cruz County Supervisor and RTC Commissioner Monica Martinez, Scotts Valley City Council member Steve Clark, Santa Cruz County Supervisor and RTC Commissioner Justin Cummings (and his RTC delegate Andy Schiffrin), Capitola City Council member and RTC Commissioner Gerry Jensen, Santa Cruz County Supervisor and RTC Commissioner Kim De Serpa, and David Cowan (Program Committee Chair, Rotary Club of San José).
- h) At a VTA Board Workshop, Mayor Matt Mahan stated the need for a new business model: "We need revenue." "We need real transformation."
- i) Created a [perspective drawing](#) of the guideway to show how little visual intrusion occurs, and an accompanying [media release](#) was shared through a number of channels.
- j) Public outreach included a booth at Day on the Bay, and postings on [OCI Environmental Justice](#) FB page, comments at the Climate Roundtable (10/30), and Democratic Socialists of America online #transit channel.
- k) The first **Whoosh®** transportation system [project in Queenstown](#), New Zealand, is officially launched, with a second planned for Irvine's [Great Park](#) in California.
- l) **Modutram** initiated a PRT link between [Chivas Stadium](#) and a BRT route ½ mile away (in the Guadalajara metropolitan area) that will serve the 2026 World Cup; of the various podcar designs, Modutram's is closest to the one planned for Milpitas (and costs about the same). **Rob will check on progress of the Modutram project.

- m) [Glydways pilot project](#) eyes 2026 for service around Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.
- n) Comments were submitted to the California Energy Commission Business Meeting (6/11/2025), the Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan (a few brief comments along with links to the Bay Area Regional Climate Action Plan, 7/16/2025), San Francisco Transit Riders, Friends of Caltrain, Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission (8/7/2025), California Forward, Transportation Solutions Defense and Education Fund (TRANSDEF), Silicon Valley Youth Climate Action, District Director of Assembly Member Ash Kalra (Celeste Walker, 25th Assembly District), San José Downtown Association, San José Chamber of Commerce, Orchard City Indivisible, TC&H South Bay Summit, SEEC Institute's [Thriving Economy Project](#), [San Jose Inside article](#), and [Daily Kos article](#).

3. **Federal Funding Update:** The U.S. Department of Transportation's aversion to funding California's rail projects causes concerns about a level playing field. SPURRING PROJECTS TO ADVANCE ENERGY RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE SWIFTLY ([SPARKS](#)) project is soliciting grant requests: *ARPA-E funds technology with the potential to be disruptive in the marketplace. The mere creation of a new learning curve does not ensure market penetration. Rather, the ultimate value of a technology is determined by the marketplace, and impactful technologies ultimately become disruptive – that is, they are widely adopted and displace existing technologies from the marketplace or create entirely new markets. ARPA-E understands that definitive proof of market disruption takes time, particularly for energy technologies. Therefore, ARPA-E funds the development of technologies that, if technically successful, have clear disruptive potential, e.g., by demonstrating capability for manufacturing at competitive cost and deployment at scale.* **Rob will check on the requirements for submitting a SPARKS grant request; if light, **Rob will submit a grant request.

4. **State Funding Update:** Sen. Dave Cortese is chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee. He has asked that staff in the Senate Transportation committee look into the [proposed legislation](#) for a TIRCP update.

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. Basic Message: Without the \$5B from the feds, VTA needs to choose: 1) Find funding elsewhere (unlikely given the low return on investment). 2) Delay until a friendly administration returns to power (if ever). 3) Let go of last century's vision and embrace a new one that addresses the sprawling reality of Santa Clara County - and the urgency of our Climate Crisis.

Rob asked Sunnyvale City Council member Linda Sell about VTA's reluctance to change direction, or even discuss the problem of not getting the \$5B from the feds to pay for the BART Burrow. Apparently, **VTA Board members still expect to get funding, somehow!** She suggested lobbying San Jose Mayor Matt Mahan due to comments he made during the August 1, 2025 VTA Board Workshop meeting. During discussion of SB 63 (putting a transit tax measure on the 2026 ballot), Mayor Mahan said: "We need revenue.", "We need a more concrete and compelling plan for how we're going to transform the business model.", and "[We need real transformation.](#)" Ms. Sell also noted that 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.

**Rob will check with the 49ers organization about PRT to the stadium.

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. **Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCC-RTC):** The Santa Cruz PRT group (SC-PRT) has been lobbying the RTC to abandon a boondoggle coastal rail project, and adopt a PRT plan. Rob has participated in 4 lobbying events as an outside expert (not a LoopWorks representative). Although the boondoggle is dying, RTC has not yet embraced PRT. SC-PRT (<https://santacruzprt.org>) has started mapping a proposal:
 - **Full network** that extends from UCSC to Watsonville - <https://app.podaris.com/projects/5Xzhg3q4SiZFfdbfM/engage/views/Gi8nCJfJwXNs9Rzpn>
 - 3 options for initial **pilot projects**: Boardwalk-downtown Santa Cruz, Watsonville, and UCSC <https://app.podaris.com/projects/MbeYX8mC3vWPDRnlp/engage/views/uYACSTykAEiv5Hi3e>
7. **Milpitas City Council:** Their support depends upon securing funding or changing Council membership through an election.
8. **Financial Report:** Paul has been paid, as has City of Milpitas (business license). Transition from Poppy Bank to Keypoint Credit Union continues. **Tam will close out the Poppy account.

[Post-meeting, Rob submitted his annual timecard which totaled just shy of 350 hours for the year. In 2024, the total was 550 hours, and 560 hours the year before. Rob attributes the shortfall in 2025 to time/attention being diverted to saving our democracy.]

9. **Conversation about strategy** for creation of the Milpitas PRT. “Teamwork makes the dream work.” Thank you to each of you who contributed, no matter how small you think your effort. It makes a difference. :-)

The increasing number of conversations suggests that a change is occurring, that people are more open to “outside the box” thinking. Or it could mean that PRT’s time is finally coming.

10. Adjournment