



SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES

May 24, 2021

Via email to: rtran@ci.milpitas.ca.gov

Dear Mayor Tran and City Council Members,

On behalf of our more than 85,000 Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter supporters, the environment upon which we all depend, and future generations dependent upon our current generation to solve our Climate Crisis, we urge you to analyze and consider the [Milpitas PRT Project](#) as proposed by LoopWorks.

Our Transportation Committee's review of the project and governance structure shows that it will both involve and benefit the residents of Milpitas. This project comes at a critical time for transit. Transit ridership was already generally down prior to the pandemic and then the pandemic decimated transit. PRT would have been a beneficial anomaly at that time since socially distanced transit is built into its model and design. In addition, with 12 PRT stations serving the high-density area around the BART Transit Center, this transit investment by LoopWorks could support all 5 goals of the City's [DRAFT Trail, Pedestrian, and Bicycle Master Plan](#) (Executive Summary, page 5). As stated there, "Safer bicycle and pedestrian connections to the BART station and other transit options are particularly important to better serve the growing number of jobs in the city."

At an estimated [cost of \\$60M](#) for the 4-mile dual-loop system, the **capitalization cost** appears reasonable especially when compared to the billions involved in other modes that ran empty during the pandemic. As a community asset shared by the public, the **utilization rate** of PRT could be far higher than for privately-owned cars. Thus, the **environmental footprint** of resource/materials consumption would be lower; due to multiple efficiencies, energy use would also be dramatically lower.

PRT technology also serves our [Transportation Committee's Mission](#). To reduce the public's reliance upon privately-owned cars, and reduce VMT as required by SB743, we see PRT as a technology that could provide clean, quiet, and responsive public transportation that's available 24 hours a day. Along with that high level of service comes the promise of [extraordinary ridership increases](#) on existing transit options. Given current low rates of public transit utilization, the Club is especially interested in seeing area-wide ridership data that could result from this PRT transit system.

While this project would serve Milpitas and its residents, resulting data that confirms cost estimates in the [LoopWorks Business Plan](#) could impact most metropolitan areas of this country and the world. We see high-leverage projects like this as necessary in order to reverse Global Warming before it is too late. We ask that Milpitas initiate consideration of the LoopWorks PRT proposal.

Sincerely,



Gladwyn D'Souza, Chair
Conservation Committee
Loma Prieta Chapter Sierra Club

Cc: James Eggers, Director
Loma Prieta Chapter Sierra Club