An Obsolete Infrastructure

In the next 25 years, the escalating cost of energy ($15/+ gallon of gasoline) plus already escalating congestion leading to gridlock and collapse, will bring to an end the suburban lifestyle that has defined America 1.0.

Our proposal for WPA 2.0 re-images the American city and considers what its potential can be with the disappearance of the existing urban freeway. This involves no less than the transformation of the already obsolete infrastructural transit system based on the single driver automobile into an intra-urban public network. Eliminating the urban freeway, and conversion of the remaining vast amount of urban land, provides an opportunity for city building at a scale previously non-existent.

This new Nation-Net replaces a hard, single-use transportation grid with a soft, green permeable network that allows major aspects of the city, from transportation, communications information systems, buildings, open space, resources to be bundled together in ways both desirable and smart, instead of always responding to arbitrary disposition in the landscape arising from archaic or out-moded criteria.

This potential for a “messy urbanism” allows city-parts to be where they can function best; these now abandoned right-of-way strips extend to all parts of the city, in all directions. There exists the opportunity to become a link connecting some of the countless towns existing within the urban area, or to connect those formerly fractured by freeways.

There are also generative possibilities; responding to activities now happening alongside these new swaths of land, this new development could enhance or re-boot them.

The interstate, inter-urban highway network would, could remain in place, but it must be updated to serve future needs. The proposal is called “Nation-Net” because this transforming of the Los Angeles Intra-urban network is seen as a model for large cities across America. Different idiosyncratic issues will lead to a variety of approaches. “Messy Urbanism: allows for that. The compelling vision that our country presents from space is that of a nation-network linking “points of light.” This image becomes the template for a newly imaged reality.
NationNET _ Points of Light

Intra - Urban Array
Transportation
- Hi-Speed Rail network
- Local Rail network
- Ground Commute
- Commercial Array

"B" Build Urban Fabric

Public Housing
Smart-Bus Sharing
Multi-use urban blocks

Open City
- Open space links
- continuity, transit
- parks
- urban forest canopy

New Resource Grid
- Local electrical power generation
- Saltwater desalinization
- Greywater reclamation
- Wind Power

N:G Communication Network
mixed use walkable neighborhoods

green inner suburbs

progressive and next gen jurisdictions

re-compact development

inner city investment

inner city investment

open space infrastructure

connected city

enhanced webs sustainabilty

algorithm intensive and idea rich

CO2 emission neutral

expedited neighborhood approvals: public rating rating system

regional innovation and design base point system

pre-review approvals/local approval process, obtain community support, certified plans/entitled project and development guidelines and options

local government evaluate local zoning code

Existing Freeway Interstate Network

Location of City Hub

Case-study - LA

Hi-Speed Rail network

Interstate City Hub

Existing Interstate Freeway

Intra-urban Transportation Array

Case Study: Los Angeles
transit and urbancomm: moving people, communities, and ideas
ditch the car/ ditch the urban freeway
articulated ongrade transit vanpool
ongrade bikepool
real time commuter services
flextime jobs and centers
ridepool
advance route planning ; customized vanroute
guaranteed ride home
bikeshare
flextime
alternative mode incentives and price based supply

planning values/ infra urban array
streamlined energy, water, waste, multi-cycled recovery
from 10% to 75% renewable supply/demand
local composting and neighborhood waste: neighborhood cooling and tree planting program: local "green streets and green belts"
mojave solar farm, con-urban use:
contour landfills: grassroots waste-cycling
bio solid generation from local sewage:
continuous city wide tree vaults: aerosponges:
adopt an algae pond: self help home fuels
mega-diverse bio-filling....bio-ponding
fair-trade metering.....meter rate swaps
millenium3 paracity-ecosytems
n-G Communication Network
Open City

mixed use walkable communities
inner city investment
CO2 emission neutral
inner city neighborhood
open space infrastructure
connected city
pre-review approval/approval process
obtain community support
expedited neighborhood approval/public rating system
enhanced web-sustainability

inner city investment
regional innovation and design base point system
certified project financial and structural systems ie: tax increment financing, tax abatement, density bonus,
certified plans/entitled project and development guidelines and options
re-compact development

ASPECTS OF THE CITY BUNDLED TOGETHER

B-Build

wind-air energy
urban block
urban power generators
urban block
relationship
energy
natural light

planning mandates inside the intra-urban array neighborhood
progressive and next gen jurisdictions
inner city investment
open space infrastructure
connected city
pre-review approval/approval process
obtain community support
expedited neighborhood approval/public rating system
efficient neighborhood approval/public rating system
efficient neighborhood approval/public rating system
enhanced web-sustainability

inner city investment
regional innovation and design base point system
certified project financial and structural systems ie: tax increment financing, tax abatement, density bonus,
certified plans/entitled project and development guidelines and options
re-compact development

smart shop