In 2000, 1 in 3 urban bridges were classified as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete. It is estimated that it will cost $9.4 billion per year for 20 years to eliminate all bridge deficiencies.

The Interstate highway system for the past fifty years has attempted to connect us across our vast landscape while at the same time slowly separated us within our own communities. It has continued to increase time, distance and energy between our basic necessities.

Metabolic Infrastructure proposes to utilize a soon to be demolished overpass as an opportunity to create an urban farm and park system. This insertion attempts to reduce the current rate we use our infrastructure, through simple means, rather than continuing to find ways to support increased use. The soon to be abandoned twenty-six acres of freeway overpasses becomes the spine for a new system of growing produce and composting organic matter, reducing the use of our current infrastructure, while giving visibility back to the consumer. This spine also becomes the generator for future programmatic growth and allows it to be built as needed over time.
The planting of switchgrasses and allowing time for them to pull the metals and other toxins from the soil proves to be both cheaper and more sustainable for an ecosystem than the mechanical removal required for immediate development.

The existing infrastructure and its drainage system is utilized for the collection of excess rainwater draining from the shallow crop beds above. As this water filters through the crop beds it collects the nutrients from the soil that are necessary to support a hydroponic system. This system becomes especially useful in the winter when water can be collected from the melting snow and brought into the greenhouse.