Proposed Capital City

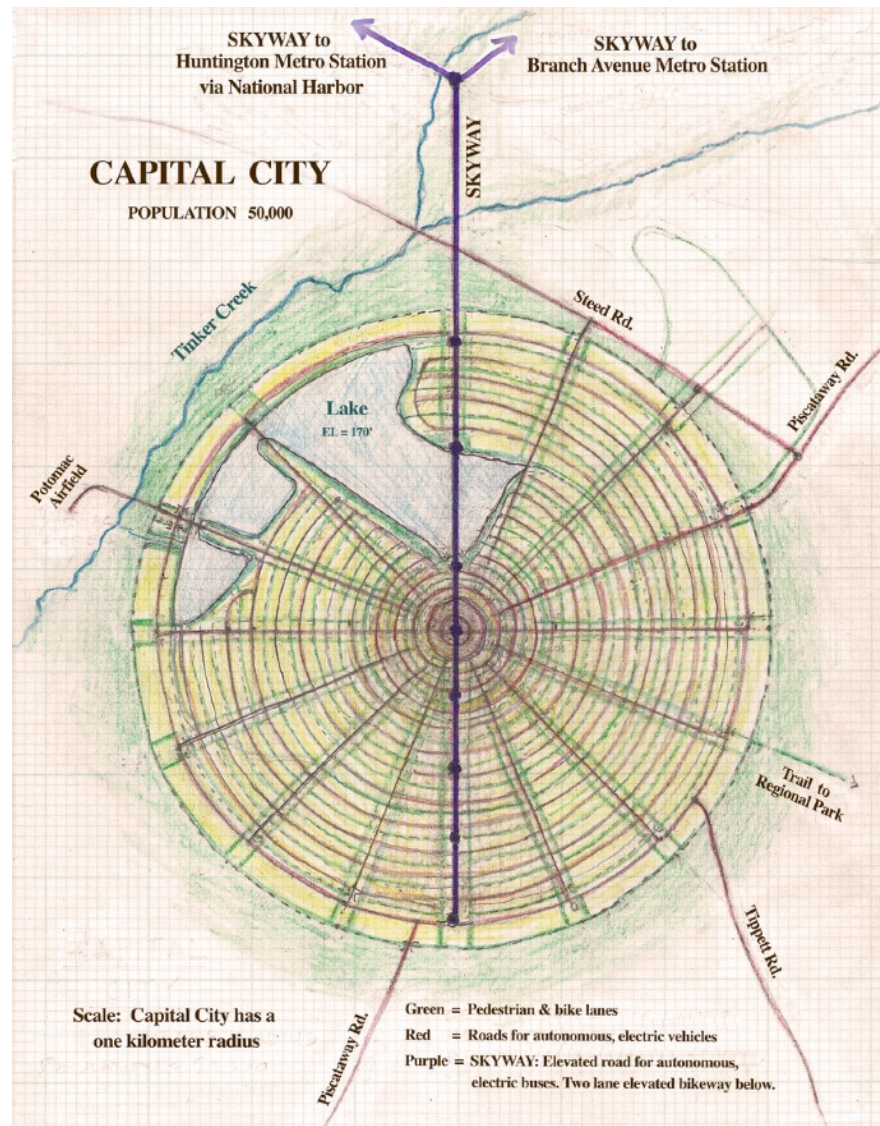### (Excerpt from **Where I'm Coming From**)

By Michael E. Arth

At the same time Iceland is running its experiment in full reserve banking, we could run a few experiments of our own using what ex-Fed Chief Ben Bernanke called Money-Financed Fiscal Programs. The more important one is to take the solar panels, thermal energy storage modules and batteries in Africa that are being paid for with Ecos and finance the installation of the panels and other non-carbon emitting energy sources in the US. At the same time we can also finance the rebuilding of our infrastructure that would ensure we have the fastest and most secure internet in the world. The funds, along with the cost of the program, could be spent into existence by the US Treasury under the supervision of the Federal Reserve Board. From Iceland's full-

reserve banking to money creation in America, we could assess the effect on inflation and the economy in order to determine future decisions regarding monetary and banking policies. As long as our economy is strong and new value is being created, such fiscal practices should not be inflationary. If this proves to be the case, then a Citizen Dividend might also be partially or fully funded in this manner.

We can also build a new town—Capital City—where we can test the most advanced sustainable urban design, waste disposal, transportation, and technology. It would also be an experiment in how to finance development solely through adding value and economic vitality. The compact, model development could be on 1000 acres, on the edge of Washington D.C., on the former site of Hyde Field/Washington Executive Airport. The site happens to be in Prince George's County, the richest African-American-majority county in the US. Building on the New Pedestrianism model, the city of 50,000 could become the gleaming new headquarters of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Department of Transportation (DOT). The detested, brutalist-style HUD Washington D. C. headquarters from the 1960s was long overdue for replacement. The DOT had been wastefully leasing its offices for years, and was looking for a permanent location. Capital City could be integrated into the Greater Washington light rail/Metro system with the Capital City Skyway, which could have two lanes for self-driving electric buses above, and bicycle trails suspended just below, similar to the Xiamen Bicycle Skyway in China's Fujian

province. The Skyway could be built over parks, streams, and other greenbelts where ordinary roads should not be built. A bicycle trail on the ground level would provide park and greenbelt access and allow maintenance of the Skyway. The Skyway could connect to the terminus of the Green Metro line at Branch Avenue Station, and the terminus of the Yellow Metro line at Huntington Station.

Waste collection could be handled through an automated vacuum collection (AVAC), that transports trash and recycling through a system of underground pneumatic tubes to a central processing facility. There could be no more than a handful of stop signs, with almost all intersections negotiated with roundabouts, and pedestrian lanes crossing under the roadbeds on a network separated from motor vehicles. Even from the inception, only self-driving electric cars and trucks could be allowed in Capital City. Parking would be vastly reduced by discouraging private car ownership in favor of shared, self-driving vehicles. Consequently, above-ground parking lots could be completely eliminated. Many, if not most, of the cars would return on their own to underground garages or private owners for recharging or service. Shared bicycles are also available that can be picked up or dropped off at these garages, or at one of the skyway stops. Most dwellings do not have, or need garages, except for storage and bicycles, and the ones that do have garages only accommodate one car and a few bicycles. Those who do own cars, such as handicap or other specialty vehicles, could also let their cars roam for profit when not in use.

One shared, self-driving car in Capital City, combined with public transportation, could provide as many passenger miles as 15 private vehicles do in the rest of the country now. Even better, automobile transportation will become convenient for those who previously could not drive themselves, and it allows them to connect seamlessly with other public transportation. This would permanently solve the "first and last mile problem" that has dampened the use of public transportation. Driverless car sharing also costs far less because riders don't have to buy a car, or pay for drivers, gas, or insurance. There would also a huge savings to the health, as vehicle-related injuries or deaths would be rare once the

This is how I imagine my partner Shasta and me, in 2024, sporting our new augmented reality glasses (with photochromic lenses) in Capital City.

technology is perfected. In 2016 there were more than 6 million vehicles crashes in the US causing 40,000 deaths. By 2050 the number of deaths from car crashes could be less than a few hundred (And I'm sure that many people will still complain that autonomous cars are not safe enough).

Solar panels both on and offsite, coupled with offsite thermal energy storage, could supply all the energy needed for the city. All residents could receive the latest model of augmented reality glasses—almost indistinguishable from regular glasses—which can connect them to the fastest broadband service in the country, which will be free. The internet of things could monitor all data for maximum efficiency. Water features, many miles of trails and pedestrian lanes, swimming pools, easy access to the metro area, and countless urban amenities could supply entertainment and healthy outdoor activities. Many other innovations, too numerous to mention, or not yet conceived, could be adopted in Capital City, and it could be a living laboratory for how to build a city.

As a result, it would be the perfect venue for a World's Fair to show off all the modern and sustainable features. I can imagine a Capital City World's Fair (Expo 2028) lasting from April 15 to October 15, 2028. Most visitors would receive smart glasses with their admission ticket, tailored to their own prescription, which would greatly enhance the experience. There would probably be 100 times as many visitors using virtual reality glasses at home for a fully immersive experience. Virtually all of the Expo buildings could be built to be permanent or repurposed after the fair. All the money used to build Capital City and finance the Expo could be spent into (debt-free) existence by the Treasury, at no cost to the taxpayers, with much of the costs returned to the government through the sale of buildings, property taxes, and economic benefits. The new town could show off America as a world leader again in housing, urban design, transportation, and technological innovation.