

24 Jan 2011 / Revised through 26 Aug 2014

## **CURRENT PERSPECTIVE # 10**

### **2011 SYNERGY PROJECT SUMMARY**

In 2006 SYNERGY initiated the ‘Giving Back’ strategy. Clients were no longer charged for SYNERGY efforts. Clients and projects were selected based on merit:

**How much does this project contribute to a sustainable trajectory for civilizations as reflected in functional and sustainable human settlement patterns?**

The work of SYNERGY and its predecessor Organizations prior to January 2000 was documented in *THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE*. The work from January 2000 to January 2010 was documented in *TRILO-G*. In 2010 [www.emrisse.com](http://www.emrisse.com) was established replacing [www.synergyplanninginc.com](http://www.synergyplanninginc.com). By 2011 there was a clear need for an overarching Conceptual Framework to provide a context for ongoing SYNERGY effort organized by topic, not by ‘client.’

The 2010 SYNERGY Project Summary is now outdated but it is retained as CP # 10 with minor editing as it may help readers understand the continuing growth / metamorphisms of the SYNERGY work product.

This CP is edited up until the end of WHISTLING PAST THE GRAVEYARD – CP # 34 which marks the end of a series of Current Trajectory / Alpha Vill CPs and the return to concerns at the Regional and MegaRegional scales.

The 2011 SYNERGY Project Summary was presented in three sections. These sections correspond to the three Books that make up *TRILO-G* (Beta 2, 2010) – *FOUNDATIONS*, *BRIDGES*, *ACTION*.

#### **I. NEW FOUNDATIONS**

As projects in this section are completed they will become CURRENT PERSPECTIVES (CPs) posted at [www.emrisse.com](http://www.emrisse.com). In the event that a Beta 4 version of *TRILO-G* is published (the current version is Beta 2) these elements would be revised to become new PARTs of VOLUME

ONE – FOUNDATIONS.

**A. CITIZEN MEDIA, THE NEXT STEP**

**Citizen Media serves the interests of the New Fourth Estate – citizens and their Households. Citizen Media is the source for information citizens must have to make intelligent decisions in the voting booth and in the market place.**

THE ESTATES MATRIX (PART TWO of *TRILO-G*) examines the evolution of the three “Estates of the Realm” from 1304 to 1775. It also outlines the Fundamental Transformation of these three Estates after 1775.

**During the period 1775 to 2010, the three historical Estates that had evolved over tens of thousands of years up until 1775 transformed into the four contemporary Estates – Agency, Enterprise, Institution and Citizens / Households.**

These four Estates evolved to manage contemporary civilization just as the three widely recognized Estates of the Realm had evolved up to 1775. THE ESTATES MATRIX also outlines the need for, and role of media serving each of the four New Estates, and especially Citizen Media serving the New Fourth Estate.

CITIZEN MEDIA, THE NEXT STEP, a multi-chapter Perspective launches from the foundation established by THE ESTATES MATRIX and is the logical extension of PART TWO of *TRILO-G*.

**The emergence of Citizen Media is the sine qua non of citizens having the information they need to make intelligent decisions in the voting booth and in the marketplace.**

CITIZEN MEDIA, THE NEXT STEP is being written chapter by chapter based on feedback prior drafts. Chapter 1 of Beta 1 was published on 24 November 2010 as “MORE ON THE ROLE OF CITIZEN MEDIA. The current version is Beta 5 and includes THE LITMUS TEST which provides a response / feedback framework for all SYNERGY projects.

**Current Status:** CP # 09 CITIZEN MEDIA, THE NEXT STEP, 24 March 2011 (Concerning the dating of CPs see NAVIGATING CURRENT PERSPECTIVES linked from the CURRENT PERSPECTIVES page at [www.emrisse.com](http://www.emrisse.com) .

## **B. ENOUGH?**

**Will there be ‘enough’ resources to support the expectations of over 7 Billion humans on the planet?**

There is a new lens through which to examine this question. This New Reality is composed of:

- The Arab Spring,
- The growing expectations of Brazil, India and China, and
- The stark reminders of the TOTAL cost of squeezing energy from below the ocean floor and from inside the nucleus of radioactive atoms

The New Reality suggest that the Golden Age of Gluttony for individuals, Agencies, Enterprises and Institutions at the top of the global Ziggurat and at the top of every MegaRegional and Regional Ziggurat is OVER.

**‘Modern’ humans must finally acknowledge the finite limits of the planet if they are to achieve a sustainable trajectory for human civilization.**

For 500 years, the rich Regions of the planet have been living off the entire planets Natural Capital. Over the past 60 years – the Golden Age of Gluttony or The Era of Mass OverConsumption – the rate of consumption has increased dramatically.

**For example the US has about five percent of the worlds population but consumes approximately twenty percent of the planets resources. Many of those resources are becoming scarce, depleted and exhausted. This is an unsustainable trajectory, especially within the New Reality.**

**The New Reality illustrates that almost half the population of the planet is demanding MORE and hoping consume MORE of the already scarce, depleted and exhausted resources.**

So the question is:

**Will there be ‘ENOUGH’ resources to meet these exploding expectations?**

Consumption of Natural Capital to achieve ‘growth’ has been the policy and goal of the US for 200 years. Mass OverConsumption has become the policy and goal, especially for the past 60 years. Continuing this policy will drive economic, social and physical indicators of human heath, safety and welfare into ever more negative trajectories.

**It should be clear to all the US and its MegaRegions and Regions cannot continue to expand GDP via the Mass OverConsumption.**

SYNERGY contends that citizens can and MUST cut per capita consumption AND reverse population growth. At the same time, citizens can and MUST IMPROVE Quality of Life through the evolution of functional and sustainable human settlement patterns. This evolution will require a Fundamental Transformation of not just settlement patterns but also governance structure and the economic system as documented in *TRILO-G*.

As spelled out in Section III. Action strategies, the current imperative is to evolve **Balance, Critical Mass** and **Resiliency** at the Alpha Cluster, the Alpha Neighborhood and the Alpha Village scales so that there can be **Balance, Critical Mass** and **Resiliency** at the Alpha Community scale and beyond. **Balance, Critical Mass** and **Resiliency** at the Alpha Community scale is essential to evolve sustainability at the New Urban Region scale AND to evolve Urban Support Regions into New Urban Regions.

**Current Status:** CP # 18 ENOUGH? 1 August 2011.

### **C. HALFWAY OUT OF THE CAVE**

HALFWAY OUT OF THE CAVE is a multi-chapter Perspective that presents a variation on the ‘Allegory of the Cave’ from Plato’s *The Republic*. The Perspective is based on the conclusions that can be drawn from half a dozen well-regarded books published in the past five years. These books address the need to (and some propose how to) establish a sustainable trajectory for human civilization. HALFWAY OUT OF THE CAVE articulates the shortcoming of these perspectives and reflects the parameters articulated in *TRILO-G* – PART FIVE – A NEW METRIC FOR CITIZEN WELL BEING: The End of Politics-As-Usual.

**Current Status:** Detailed outline and rough draft of several sections. HALFWAY OUT OF THE CAVE may or may not become a CP.

### **D. WHAT COMES AFTER THE AUTONOMOBILE?**

WHAT COMES AFTER THE AUTONOMOBILE? is a follow up to *TRILO-G* PART THREE – THE PROBLEM WITH CARS which articulates the physical and economic reasons why Large, Private vehicles cannot provide Mobility and Access to Urban citizens in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

At the present time half of the working adults in the US cannot afford to buy and maintain a Large, Private Vehicle that is safe to drive on the Interstate Highway System.

In the context of:

- The rising cost of energy and other resources (Peak Resource Consumption,
- The cost and dysfunctions of human settlement patterns that accommodate the supply of Mobility and Access by Large, Private Vehicles,
- The demonstrated inability of Agencies to build and maintain infrastructure required to operate Large, Private Vehicles;

There obviously must be a successor to the Automobile if Urban citizens are to have Mobility and Access, especially Access by Proximity.

**Current Status:** Detailed outline, extensive resources sorted and significant draft material. Will become a CP tentatively titled ROADS TO HELL.

## **E. ANTIPARTISANSHIP**

ANTIPARTISANSHIP is a multi-chapter Perspective that puts forth a alternative democratic governance paradigm. This Perspective also reflects the parameters articulated in *TRILO-G – PART FIVE – A NEW METRIC FOR CITIZEN WELL BEING: The End of Politics-As-Usual.*

The Antipartisan paradigm is based on the assumption that in the context of:

- A planet with finite resources,
- A consumption pattern that has resulted in Peak Resources Consumption for many non-renewable resources, and
- Exhaustion for some previously (and now only theoretically) ‘renewable’ resources

Humans no longer have the luxury of ‘political’ competition. The current political ‘parties’ and political competition were designed to serve the agrarian society of 1800, not an Urban society of 2011.

Political ‘parties’ were, perhaps, a useful modus operandi for governance at a time when:

- The vast majority of homo sapiens were not citizens,
- Many citizens were illiterate, and

- Most citizens were in physical locations that prevented them from becoming well informed about the consequences of alternative Agency actions. (Ninety-five percent of the population of the US was NonUrban in 1800.)

Those conditions no longer exist.

Partisan (including ‘bipartisan’) activities perpetuate Business-As-Usual – an unsustainable trajectory for civilization.

Beyond ‘politics,’ citizens can no longer afford to choose up sides and fight over what to do about ANY major economic, social (including governance) or physical decision. There must evolve strategies to reach consensus efficiently – that is without wasting time and resources and / or clinging to the status quo that is unsustainable.

**Current Status:** Several Blog Posts, detailed outline and rough draft of several sections. Material will be included in CP PROFOUND TRANSFORMATIONS forthcoming and may be added to CP FIZCON forthcoming.

## II. NEW BRIDGES

As projects in this section are completed they will become CURRENT PERSPECTIVES (CPs) posted at [www.emrisse.com](http://www.emrisse.com) IF a Beta 4 version of *TRILO-G* is published (the current version is Beta 2) these elements would be revised to become new PARTs of VOLUME TWO – BRIDGES.

### A. FUTURE SKETCHES

FUTURE SKETCHES provides graphic and verbal vignettes of what sustainable human settlement patterns would look like both in the context of an Urban technology-based civilization or in The New Bronze Age which is the best humans can hope to sustain if they do not act soon enough and intelligently enough to achieve a sustainable trajectory for a ‘high’ technology-based civilization.

**Current Status:** Six PowerPoint programs are scheduled to be updated. Rough outlines, initial sketches and resource material has been assembled for others.

## **B. GRAPHICS / GALLERIES**

Existing graphics and graphic based programs will be revised and new graphics will be developed to illustrate the principles, theses and strategies articulated in this Project Summary.

**Current Status:** Outlines and sketches prepared. Over 22,000 slide and over 100 graphic presentations are to be sorted.

## **III. NEW ACTIONS**

The implementation of the ACTION agendas outlined in VOLUME THREE of TRILO-G depend on the support and collaboration of citizens and their Households as well as Agencies, Enterprises and Institutions.

As projects the projects in this section are completed they will become CURRENT PERSPECTIVES (CPs) posted at [www.emrisse.com](http://www.emrisse.com). IF a Beta 4 version of *TRILO-G* is published (the current version is Beta 2) these elements would be revised to become new PARTS of VOLUME THREE – ACTION.

### **Continental-scale Perspectives**

#### **A. PRIMER**

PRIMER is a comprehensive summary of the importance of citizens as well as the leaders of their Organizations understanding and embracing a comprehensive Conceptual Framework of human settlement patterns and a robust Vocabulary to articulate that Conceptual Framework.

PRIMER includes specific guidance for those concerned with smart growth, smarter growth and sustainable settlement patterns as well as for specific programs such as LEED - ND.

PRIMER will be used with HANDBOOK (*TRILO-G* – VOLUME THREE – PART TWELVE) as well as other ACTION programs.

**Current Status:** Outline complete, major parts in rough draft. The most recent major step in articulating a robust Vocabulary is the trial balloon of using DoubleCapitals for confusing words and phrases for which there is no good substitute – e.g. COMMunity, VILLage, NEighborhood, etc. See End Note on Vocabulary and Conceptual Framework in CP # 34.

## **B. THE CURRENT TRAJECTORY**

THE CURRENT TRAJECTORY is the application of citizen education strategies summarized in **TRILO-G – PART ELEVEN –PROPERTY DYNAMICS: Real Property Value, a Path to Understanding Human Settlement Patterns.**

The facts behind THE CURRENT TRAJECTORY were first outlined in a presentation to a regional bank board in August 2010 and presented as WAKE UP CALL at the Fauquier County Chamber of Commerce on 15 September 2010. It was further articulated at a presentation to the Balanced Growth Alliance (BGA) on 22 November 2010.

THE CURRENT TRAJECTORY refers to the trajectory of the value of Mode-of-the-Market (MotM) Single Household Detached Dwellings in the National Capital SubRegion differentiated by Radius Bands calculated from the Centroid of the SubRegion.

**MotM dwellings are a bellwether for the value of Urban land uses and of land held for future Urban land uses because they consume so much land and because there is such a vast over build of these dwellings.** See THE FACTS CITIZENS NEED TO UNDERSTAND CONCERNING SUBREGIONAL REALITY AND THE IMPACT OF SUBREGIONAL REALITY ON GREATER WARRENTON - FAUQUIER (5 April 2011). This fact sheet is available on the Perspectives page at [www.emrisse.com](http://www.emrisse.com)

THE CURRENT TRAJECTORY is intended to catalyze action to create **BALANCE, CRITICAL MASS and RESILIENCE** at the scales of the Alpha Vil (e.g. Greater Warrenton) and the Balanced But Disaggregated Community (e.g Greater Warrenton-Fauquier) and at the relevant SubRegion (The Virginia portion of the National Capital SubRegion that is OUTSIDE the Clear Edge Around the Core of that SubRegion.)

Many of the overarching strategies needed to address THE CURRENT TRAJECTORY were articulated in a 10 April 2008 presentation to the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors titled “Shaping a Functional and Sustainable Future in Greater Warrenton-Fauquier.” This presentation is available as Column # 125 from the *RESOURCE* page at [www.emrisse.com](http://www.emrisse.com)

Additional strategies and tactics were discussed at the BGA meeting of 22 Nov 2010 and in subsequent communications. However, there must be elements added to support ALPHA VIL as well as elements such SubRegional Investment and SubRegional Currency. A number of ideas for citizen actions are detailed in the books found in CP # 12 THE ALPHA COMMUNITY READING LIST.

**Current Status:** CP #5 SHAPING A FUNCTIONAL AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.

To provide supporting material for “Fundamental Transformation” in *The Piedmont Business Journal* (May 2011), SYNERGY prepared THE ALPHA COMMUNITY READING LIST (cp #



12) noted above and THE FACTS CITIZENS NEED TO UNDERSTAND CONCERNING SUBREGIONAL REALITY AND THE IMPACT OF SUBREGIONAL REALITY ON GREATER WARRENTON - FAUQUIER CP # 13 JUST THE FACTS.

### **C. ALPHA VILL 21**

ALPHA VILL 21 is the umbrella title for a set of strategies to evolve a sustainable future for Greater Warrenton, the primary Village scale Urban enclave in the Greater Warrenton-Fauquier Balanced But Disaggregated COMMUNITY. The strategies to achieve Balance, Critical Mass and Resiliency at the Alpha Village scale can be applied to other Urban agglomerations.

Any successful program must go far beyond “bright green” and “Transition Towns” which are popular themes evolving within a few motivated municipalities where citizens are striving to achieve a sustainable trajectory.

To achieve Alpha Village status a first step is revision of the “Comprehensive Plans” to be truly COMPREHENSIVE with NEW elements to reflect the reality of the Regional location and the context of the Urban component in question. These plans must be REALLY ‘comprehensive’ and move beyond Business-As-Usual – living off economic crumbs from the Core of the Region – in the case of Greater Warrenton, National Capital SubRegion.

There must be specific strategies to achieve **Balance** (Jobs / Housing / Services / Recreation / Amenity) and **Critical Mass** that results in **Resiliency** at all scales of human settlement. The efforts of ‘smart growth,’ ‘smarter growth,’ Cohousing and others such as “Eco Villages” but with realistic assessment of the location within the New Urban Region / Urban Support Region context.

**Current Status:** Outline of strategies from 10 April 2008 presentation (CP # 05) and notes on strategies and tactics that have been reviewed by the Town of Warrenton mayor and a council member. These strategies are further articulated in CPs #s 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 & 34.

### **D. THE CONTEXT OF THE CURRENT TRAJECTORY AND ALPHA VILL 21**

THE CURRENT TRAJECTORY and ALPHA VIL 21 projects are interrelated . Successful implementation depends:

- The emergence of Citizen Media in the SubRegion. (See Section I. A.) Citizens must have access to the information then need to make intelligent decisions in the voting booth and in the marketplace.

- Majority support for Agency AntiPartisanism (See Section I. E). As noted in ENOUGH? (Section I. B.), there will NOT be enough resources to support political Clan competition.
- A clear understanding the location of the Greater Warrenton Beta Village and the Greater Warrenton - Fauquier Beta Balanced But Disaggregated Community in the National Capital SubRegion. See THE FACTS CITIZENS NEED TO UNDERSTAND CONCERNING SUBREGIONAL REALITY AND THE IMPACT OF SUBREGIONAL REALITY ON GREATER WARRENTON - FAUQUIER (5 April 2011).

**Economic prosperity, social stability and physical (environmental) sustainability depend on establishing a new understanding of the forces that are shaping of the future. A threshold requirement is a set of contextual PARAMETERS for making realistic projections about the future trajectory.**

The following notes suggest the scope of the PARAMETERS which citizens must embrace:

- The current trajectory is unsustainable, PERIOD.
- Trickle down Shelter is not working. Over half the Households in the Region cannot afford to buy or rent Affordable and Accessible Housing.
- Mobility and Access depends on Large, Private Vehicles that a growing number cannot afford. Half the working adults cannot afford to buy and maintain a Large Private Vehicle that is both fuel efficient and safe to drive on the Interstate system.
- Large, Private Vehicles depend on roadway and parking infrastructure that no Agency (nation-state, state, Regional, municipal) can afford to build and at the same time maintain a viable and competitive economy. See THE PROBLEM WITH CARS – PART THREE of TRILO-G and Section I. D. – WHAT COMES AFTER THE AUTONOMOBILE.
- The status of those at the bottom of the food chain has been getting worse since the 60s and for those in the lower 90 percentile of the population since 1975. (See Reich *AFTERSHOCK*.)
- These PARAMETERS mean that SOMETHING must be done about the Wealth Gap. SOMETHING must be done about consumption of Natural Capital and SOMETHING must be done about settlement patterns so that every citizen has ACCESS Jobs / Housing / Services / Recreation / Amenity.

These are nation-state-scale problems but if Greater Warrenton – Fauquier is to attract the brains and capital to address these issues at the Alpha Community scale, citizens must implement

immediate, comprehensive strategies and not just continue to do what has been done in the past and hope to survive on the economic and social crumbs from the National Capital SubRegion.

The Comprehensive Plans for every municipal Agency (Towns, Service Districts, Counties) must reflect the six PARAMETERS noted above and include ‘guidelines’ for citizen on location decisions related to Jobs, Housing and Services.

## **E. INFRASTRUCTURE**

To cure The Great Recession, the two dominate political Clans at both the state and nation-state level WERE primed to dump \$ Billions (and collectively \$ Trillions) of dollars into infrastructure to support a failed and dysfunctional settlement patterns. That was before the scale of the public debt and deficit and the popularity of the Anger of Ignorance rhetoric (“Starve The Beast”) become roadblocks to projects such as highway and bridge construction and High Speed Rail.

**Current Status:** Five Draft Chapters have been posted as Blogs, including one on Landscape Urbanism. These posts will be revised to reflect current conditions and posted on the Perspectives page at [www.emrisse.com](http://www.emrisse.com)

## **F. THE TEN COMMITMENTS**

If citizens are to achieve a sustainable trajectory for their civilization, the vast majority of citizens and their Household must commit to a set of moral imperatives the support Fundamental Transformation of human settlement patterns, governance structure and economic systems.

**Current Status:** Outline completed. Topic will be included in PROFOUND TRANSFORMATIONS CP forthcoming.

## **IV. DEFERRED PROJECTS**

These projects have been outlined but are on hold.

### **A. JOURNEY THROUGH HALLOWED GROUND PRESENTATION ON THE COUNTRYSIDE, THE URBANSIDE AND THE CLEAR EDGE**

**Current status:** Draft outline complete. Project postponed indefinitely.

### **B. THE CURRENT TRAJECTORY INSIDE THE CLEAR EDGE AROUND THE CORE OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL SUBREGION**

**Current status:** Beta One Draft completed and circulated for comment. Future Perspectives may include “Drivers of Dysfunctional Settlement Patterns in Fairfax County” and “How to RePlan Reston.”