

25 July 2009

INTRODUCTION TO:

***THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE* – 4th PRINTING – LINER NOTES AND THE SUPPORTING RESOURCES ON THIS CD**

I. LINER NOTES FOR *THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE* – 4TH Printing

The Shape of the Future: (Volume I) The Critical, Overarching Impact of Human Settlement Patterns on Citizens' Economic, Social and Environmental Well-Being, (Volume II) Prospering in 21st Century New Urban Regions ISBN 0-9678108-0-9 by E M Risse was first published in January 2000 by SYNERGY/Resources.

The Shape of the Future establishes that human settlement patterns have a controlling impact on the economic, social and physical well-being of individual citizens, Households, Agencies, Enterprises, and Institutions in Communities, New Urban Regions and nation-states. The book provides the Vocabulary and a Conceptual Framework - the New Urban Region Conceptual Framework - to facilitate the understanding of human settlement patterns.

The Shape of the Future outlines six overarching strategies that citizens, Households, Agencies, Enterprises and Institutions can implement to create functional and sustainable human settlement patterns. The book introduces tools, including Regional Metrics, to help identify, analyze and determine the causes of, and cures for, settlement pattern dysfunction.

The Shape of the Future is a treatise. By articulating the New Urban Region Conceptual Framework and Vocabulary, it lays a foundation for an evolving science of human settlement. The work has been called a “unified field theory of human settlement,” however, it is more than just a “theory.” The theses, principles and strategies to implement Fundamental Transformation in human settlement patterns and Fundamental Transformation in governance structures have been field tested. The validity of The Five Natural Laws can be verified by anyone conversant with human settlement pattern development and conservation processes. The New Urban Region Conceptual Framework is not just a collection of ‘theories,’ abstract concepts or utopian musings.

The theses, principles and strategies articulated in *The Shape of the Future* are based on research into the settlement patterns that have evolved over the past 13,000 years. These patterns and densities of land use are reviewed from qualitative and quantitative perspectives in the economic, social and physical Spheres of human experience to determine the contemporary market for, and future utility of, more efficient and functional settlement patterns. The Five Natural Laws of

Human Settlement are derived from quantitative examinations of, and market response to, the patterns and densities of land use that have been created over the past 64 years in the United States.

ACCESSING THE CONTENT OF *THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE*

The Shape of the Future is intended to be a resource, not a form of entertainment. The book does not tell ‘stories.’ Before written records, ‘stories’– embellished and retold by story tellers – were the only ‘record’ of events and thus ‘history.’ With the invention of writing, then printing and now electronic communication, storage and retrieval, a more factual, consistent and science-based understanding of reality has become possible. In the complex, contemporary world, facts and consistency are imperatives to preserve democracy, achieve universal prosperity and reestablish a sustainability trajectory for civilization.

Because of the emotional impact – especially when enhanced with human interest ‘experiences’ – ‘stories’ have reemerged from the realm of fiction. They have morphed from novels, short stories and travel fantasies to become the favored vehicle with which MainStream Media communicates what formerly was called ‘the news.’ Stories are used to establish an emotional connection to the reader and to maintain reader interest. MainStream Media generated stories trend more and more toward entertainment. ‘The news’ is often a subterfuge to capture attention and expose citizens to the advertisements that now finance MainStream Media. Stories in this new context obscure a comprehensive understanding of complex topics such as the negative impact of dysfunctional human settlement patterns and thus serve the short-term interests of the Enterprises that own MainStream Media outlets.

The Shape of the Future is not designed to be read from start to finish in the manner of a novel or a single-message nonfiction “best seller”. The most efficient way to grasp the scope of the book is to read the Foreword by former Smithsonian Secretary I. Michael Heyman and the Prologue along with the concluding notes on pages 779 and 781. These nine pages set down the intent and context for the book.

Each of *The Shape of the Future’s* two Volumes, all five PARTs and each of the 32 Chapters start with an overview that places the material which follows in context with the rest of the book. Within each chapter, the headings, subheadings, bold and indented materials together with other formatting and graphic techniques help define the key resources provided by the book. The structure of *The Shape of the Future* allows the reader to dig only as deeply as is needed to understand the material.

The Shape of the Future quotes 199 books, includes a reading list of 146 volumes and has over 1,000 End Notes and three Appendices to help readers identify supporting and contrasting views on the topics raised. It is, however, the author’s experience – actually building and managing the places where tens of thousands of citizens now live, work and seek Services, Recreation and Amenity – that provides the basis for the theses, principles and strategies outlined in the book.

CHALLENGING THE CONTENT OF *The Shape of the Future*

The Shape of the Future is the result of three decades of research, writing and teaching based on sixty years of observation and professional practice focused on understanding and creating functional human settlement patterns. The book covers the full range of subjects and fields of inquiry that have been found to impact the evolution and configuration of human settlements.

No review or comment by anyone who has actually read *The Shape of the Future* has challenged the central theses of the book. No one who has independently calculated the parameters upon which The Five Natural Laws of Human Settlement Patterns are based has challenged their validity.

There have been few comments on the first three printings of the book by governance practitioners or 'the development industry.' This is because those who profit from Business-As-Usual believe that arguing over this point or that point will only call attention to the overarching message of the work. Encouraging potential readers to ignore the book on superficial grounds such as length and complexity is thought to be the best way to ensure that the information in the book will not negatively impact Business-As-Usual interests, at least in the short run.

Some well-intended readers have taken exception to the length of the work. They often suggest that the text should be limited to those topics in which they are interested or are conversant. A political science scholar who read the work from cover to cover noted that this critique should be put in the same category as that of the Emperor in *Amadeus* who observed that the problem with Mozart's music was: "Too many notes".

A recent on-line commentator put it this way: The real problem with Risse's work is that it is too comprehensive. Those who have read *The Shape of the Future* from cover to cover agree that the treatise is important. Some add that the book is "too long" and that material could be cut out. The problem is that individuals (and disciplinary groups) think different parts should be cut out. Many individuals would include only the topics in which they are interested.

Another on-line observer noted that Risse has no known peer in the scope of experience - actually building and managing components of human settlement from the Unit- and Dooryard-scale to the Village- and Community-scales - AND with a comparable breadth of training and interest in the economic, social and physical Spheres of human experience. Therefore no one can step forward to provide a comprehensive 'peer review' of the author's work. On the other hand, with careful reading, average intelligence and use of references provided, anyone can understand Risse's perspective on human settlement patterns and The New Urban Region Conceptual Framework.

The Shape of the Future is often found in the reference section of libraries because there is not yet a section of any library devoted to the science of human settlement patterns. Booksellers have

shelved the book under Social Science, Economics, Geography, Architecture and Planning, Ecology, Anthropology and Biology.

THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE AND RELATED PUBLICATIONS OF SYNERGY/PLANNING

The Shape of the Future – 4th Printing is being released at the same time as the Beta Draft of SYNERGY's companion publication **TRILO-G: FOUNDATIONS, BRIDGES, ACTION**. **TRILO-G** is based on a decade of further work on the theses, principles and strategies articulated in *The Shape of the Future* and articulates the perspectives and themes examined in the earlier work.

Nothing has occurred since January 2000, when the book was first published, that requires a change in the structure or content of *The Shape of the Future* for this 4th printing. In fact, the indicators of dysfunction noted in the book have grown worse and many of the events discussed in the future tense in the book have evolved and are documented in PART TEN of **TRILO-G: FOUNDATIONS, BRIDGES, ACTION**.

The Shape of the Future's second printing in February, 2001 incorporated several minor corrections. The third printing in 2006 corrected typographical errors called to the attention of the publisher since the second printing.

Since the third printing was published, a more comprehensive review of Volume I has been carried out by Dr. James Mello, former Associate Director of The National Museum of Natural History. This review process is profiled in Chapter 34 - Dialogue with Fahmah: Hard Questions About Living and Working in the Countryside in PART TEN of **TRILO-G: FOUNDATIONS, BRIDGES, ACTION**. The grammar, punctuation and clarity of many sentences and paragraphs have been improved due to Dr. Mello's input. The format and substance remain as published in 2000.

Following the original publication of *The Shape of the Future*, E M Risse and SYNERGY/Planning, Inc. completed the first edition of HANDBOOK which presents a 'Three-Step-Process' to create functional human settlement patterns in a specific Subregion. A second edition of HANDBOOK subtitled: Three-Step Process to Create Balanced Communities and Sustainable New Urban Regions has been updated to become PART TWELVE of **TRILO-G: FOUNDATIONS, BRIDGES, ACTION**. This edition articulates how to apply HANDBOOK's Three-Step Process in any New Urban Region or Urban Support Region in the United States.

After the first edition of HANDBOOK was completed, The 1000 Friends of Virginia's Future, a notfor-profit Institution which the author helped found, facilitated the development of PROPERTY DYNAMICS. PROPERTY DYNAMICS is an educational process that prepares citizens to carry out the HANDBOOK process. It is included as PART ELEVEN OF **TRILO-G: FOUNDATIONS, BRIDGES, ACTION**.

In addition to these major efforts, there is a small library of project reports and course materials developed by SYNERGY/Planning over the past 20 years. E M Risse has also authored 131 columns and several *Backgrounders* that were published at Bacon's Rebellion.com. This website served as "The Op/Ed Page of Virginia's New Economy" until September of 2008. In these documents, Risse employed current topics and events directly related to human settlement patterns to construct "bridges" between the principles and theses presented in *The Shape of the Future* and the tools found in VOLUME III - *ACTION* of *TRILO-G*. The columns provide support for *BRIDGES*, VOLUME II of *TRILO-G*.

VOCABULARY

Some of the words and phrases used in these Liner Notes and in *The Shape of the Future* may be new to the reader. These terms are defined in Lexicon (Appendix One) and a discussion of Core Confusing Words (Appendix Two). The Core Confusing Words are not used in the book except in quotation marks.

To reflect the evolution of Vocabulary since *The Shape of the Future* was originally published, a separate PDF file titled "Vocabulary Supplement" can be found on this CD. This supplement highlights the words and phrases that have been refined and introduced since 2000. In addition, Chapter 26 titled "Gibberish: The Vocabulary of Babble" can be found in PART EIGHT of *TRILO-G: FOUNDATIONS, BRIDGES, ACTION*. APPENDIX ONE and APPENDIX TWO have been expanded and combined to become GLOSSARY, PART THIRTEEN of *TRILO-G*.

II. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON THIS CD

In addition to *The Shape of the Future - 4th Printing* and the Vocabulary Supplement, this CD also includes:

The profile of E M Risse that appeared in the last edition of *Bacon's Rebellion* on 11 September 2008. This profile includes a listing of the 131 columns the author published on that site over the prior four plus years. These columns are also cross referenced to the 17 chapters of *BRIDGES*, Volume II of *TRILO-G* and are reproduced in Chapter 46 of *ACTION*, Volume III of *TRILO-G*.

Three Power Point presentations which were created for "Shaping the Future", a SubRegional certificate program for Community leaders that was presented at Lord Fairfax Community College, Warrenton, VA in the Spring of 2003. Risse was responsible for the content and assembled the faculty for this program. The PowerPoint presentations illustrate principles and concepts presented in *The Shape of the Future* and include: "The Five Critical Issues", "The Physics of Gridlock" and "Priority Transport Improvements". While these programs focus on the National Capital Subregion and the Washington-Baltimore New Urban Region, the concepts are applicable to every large New Urban Region and to many components of smaller New Urban Regions and Urban Support Regions in the United States.

Comments and feedback on the material in this CD are welcome. As noted in each of the files, material on this CD, including this Introduction, is copyrighted with all rights reserved by SYNERGY. Quotations are permitted with attribution and copyright citation.

E M Risse, Principal SYNERGY

124 Derby Way, Suite 100 Warrenton, VA 20186-3031

spirisse@aol.com

www.synergyplanninginc.com

CD TABLE OF CONTENTS

A.	Introduction to <i>The Shape of the Future</i> -4 th Printing (LINER NOTES) Plus Summary of the Information on this CD 25 July 2009	PDF
B.	<i>The Shape of the Future</i> -4 th Printing 18 May 2009	PDF
C.	Vocabulary Supplement 25 July 2009	PDF
D.	E M Risse Profile and Column Index 8 Sept 2009 (Chapter 46 of <i>TRILO-G</i>)	PDF
E.	“The Five Critical Issues”	PowerPoint
F.	“The Physics of Gridlock”	PowerPoint
G.	“Priority Transport Improvements”	PowerPoint