

REBUILDING AMERICA FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

If we are to eliminate our dependency on fossil fuels, we must change patterns of land use and development across this great land. Our current pattern of sprawl development, served by an overextended system of roads and services, must be replaced with a more humane and efficient one.

This will require both a massive investment in public infrastructure and a forceful, clear new direction for the development industry.

PUBLIC WORKS

Critical Public Works programs are needed to provide new forms of mobility to free us from dependence on the automobile. These include:

- 1 1 High Speed Rail to connect our major cities;
- 2 2 Regional rail transit to connect the towns, small cities, and major city in a region;
- 3 3 Efficient in-town transit;
- 4 4 Improved streets and public open spaces to make our neighborhoods, towns, and cities walkable
- 5 5 Systems for short term rental of bicycles and electric cars for in-town trips.

DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS:

These public works could create the framework for intelligent compact development. It could serve as an incentive to redirect current development patterns which still favor sprawl expansion of urban areas, to careful infill in already developed areas. This would include the revitalization of our cities and the retrofitting of low density suburban areas. Compact development (50-100 units per acre) uses much less energy to heat and cool, and could make it possible to implement on site production of energy.

REBUILDING AMERICA BONDS

How can such a venture be financed, given other pressing demands and the condition of our Treasury? Taxes are still viewed as a form of punishment by those who don't accept payment of taxes as the most fundamental expression of patriotism.

Is it possible to create a domestic version of the War Bonds that were issued during WWII? By the time I was aware of them in the 1950's, US Government Bonds were something you received as a birthday present from relatives that you had never met. Everybody saw them as INVESTING in America.

So why not have REBUILDING AMERICA BONDS as a way in which all Americans can invest in America's future.

Ray Gindroz, 10 November
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