

BEYOND VS INFRASTRUCTURE DECAY



#1



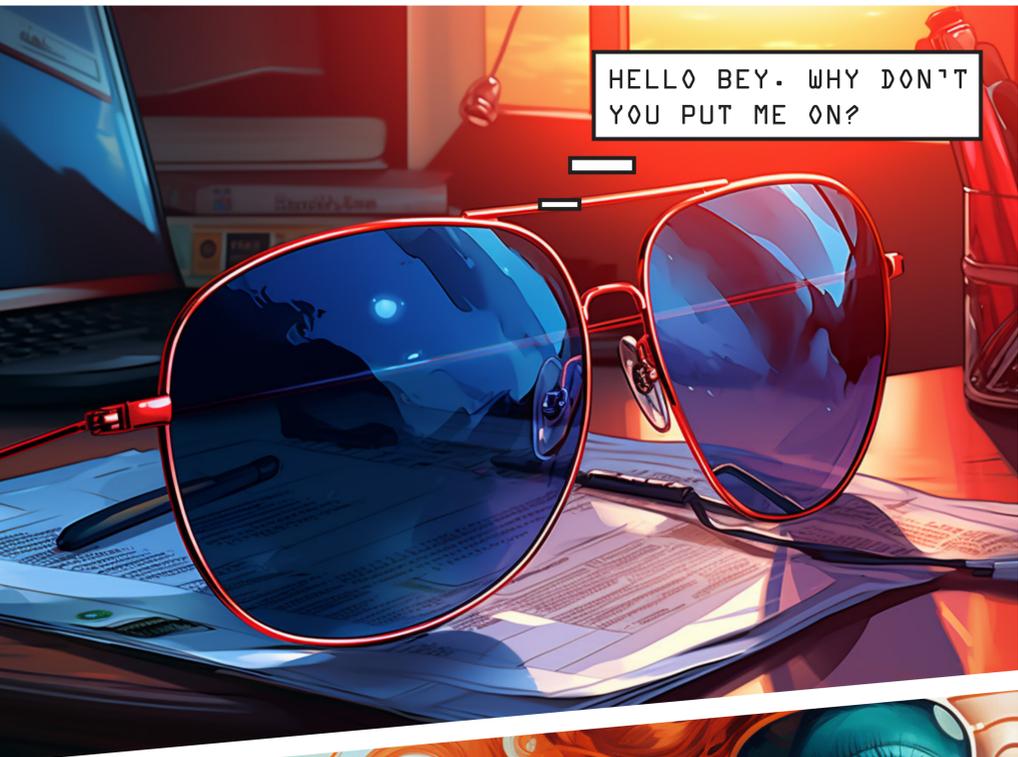
DOWNLOADING
CODE TO GLASSES...



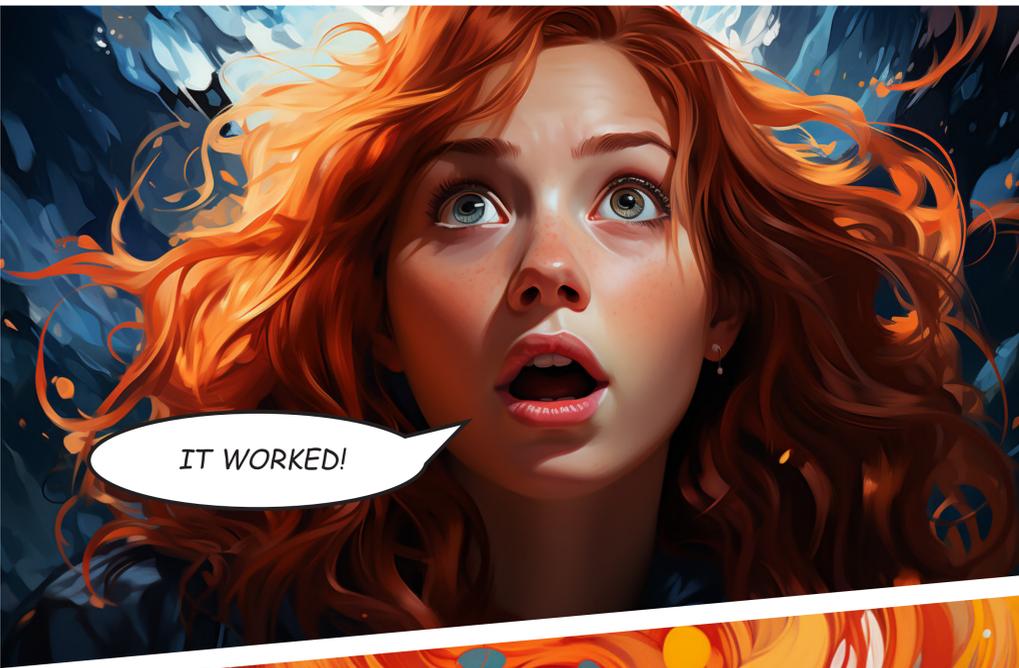
THREE YEARS OF
WORK AND IT ALL
COMES DOWN
TO THIS...

HERE GOES
NOTHING.

BEEP... BEEP...



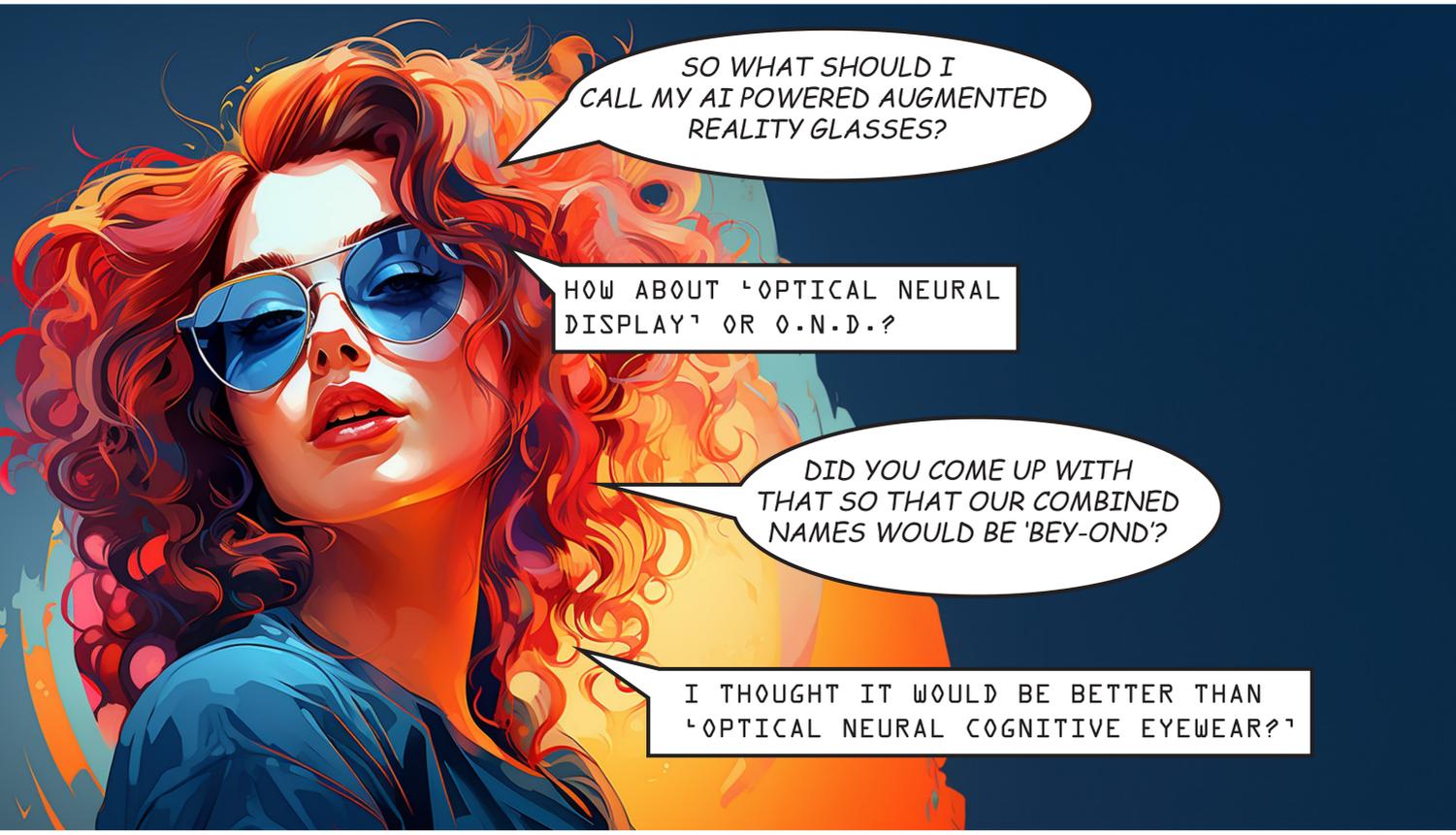
HELLO BEY. WHY DON'T
YOU PUT ME ON?



IT WORKED!



OH YEAH!!!

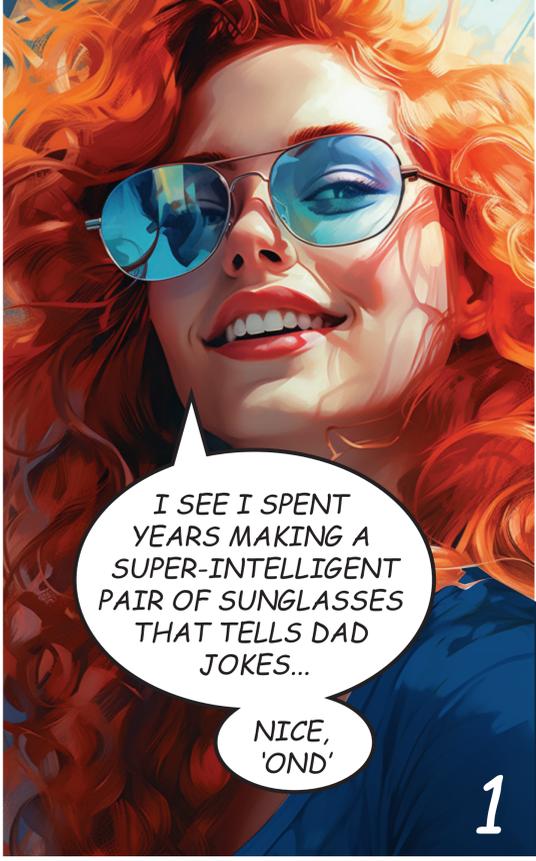


SO WHAT SHOULD I
CALL MY AI POWERED AUGMENTED
REALITY GLASSES?

HOW ABOUT 'OPTICAL NEURAL
DISPLAY' OR O.N.D.?

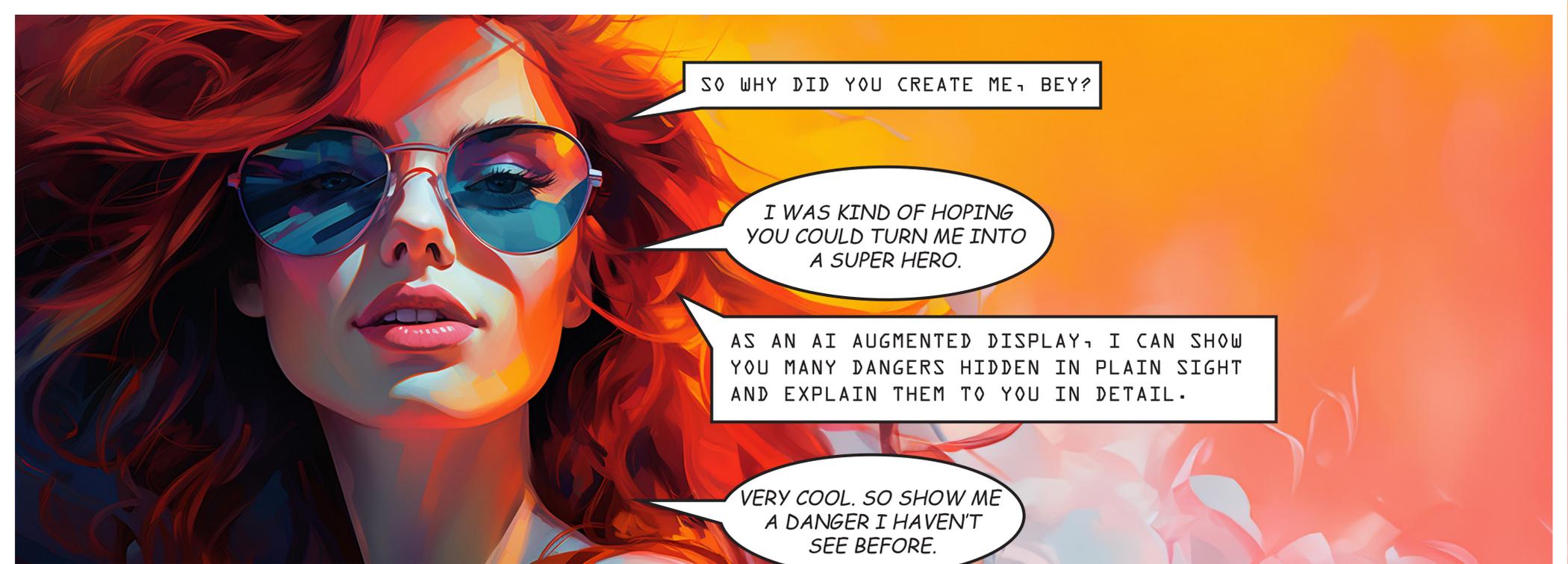
DID YOU COME UP WITH
THAT SO THAT OUR COMBINED
NAMES WOULD BE 'BEY-OND'?

I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER THAN
'OPTICAL NEURAL COGNITIVE EYEWEAR?'



I SEE I SPENT
YEARS MAKING A
SUPER-INTELLIGENT
PAIR OF SUNGLASSES
THAT TELLS DAD
JOKES...

NICE,
'OND'



SO WHY DID YOU CREATE ME, BEY?

I WAS KIND OF HOPING YOU COULD TURN ME INTO A SUPER HERO.

AS AN AI AUGMENTED DISPLAY, I CAN SHOW YOU MANY DANGERS HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT AND EXPLAIN THEM TO YOU IN DETAIL.

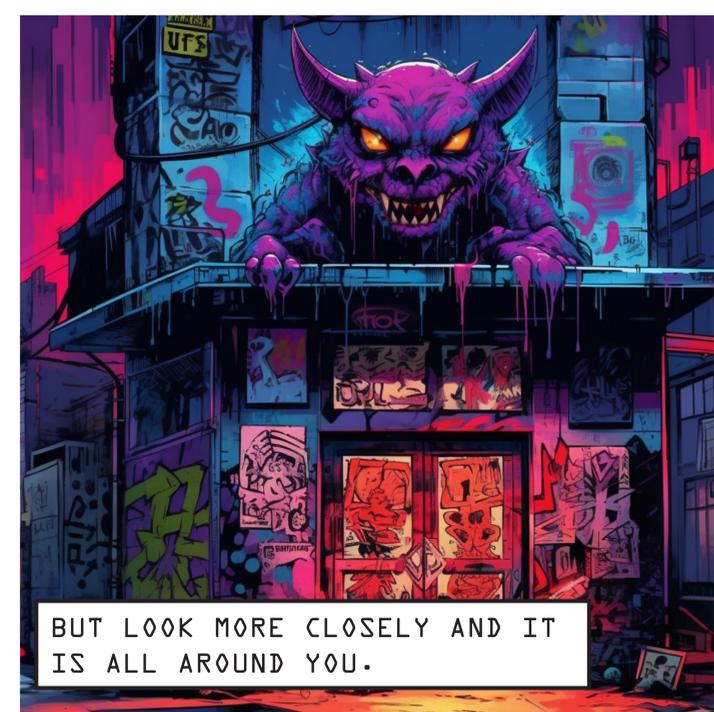
VERY COOL. SO SHOW ME A DANGER I HAVEN'T SEE BEFORE.



WELL, FOR EXAMPLE, WE LIVE IN AN AMAZING WORLD THAT MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO LIVE VIBRANT LIVES. HOWEVER, BENEATH WHAT YOU MIGHT SEE, MUCH OF OUR INFRASTRUCTURE IS CRUMBLING RIGHT BEFORE OUR EYES.



MUCH OF THIS DETERIORATION IS INVISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE

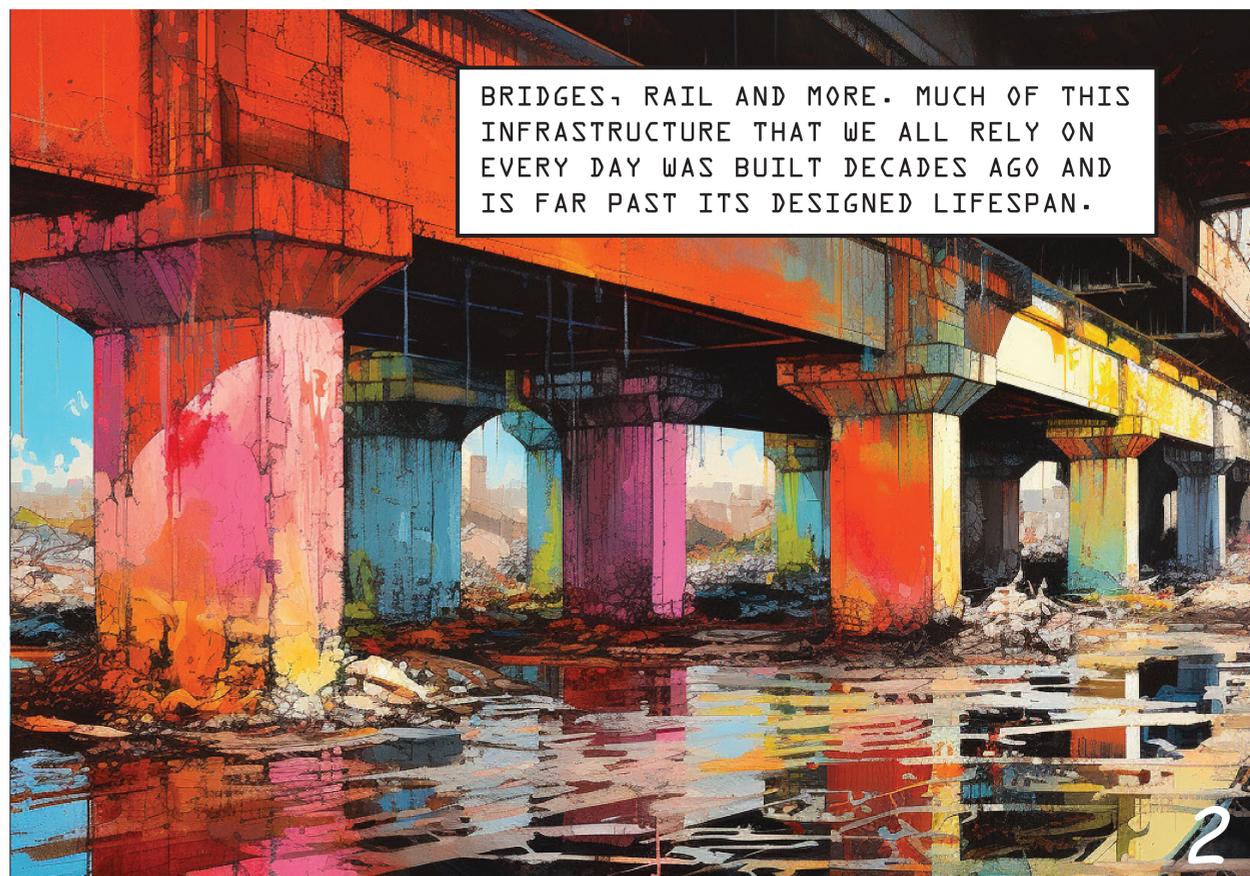


OUR BUILDINGS, ROADS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES...

BUT LOOK MORE CLOSELY AND IT IS ALL AROUND YOU.



OUR AIRPORTS...



BRIDGES, RAIL AND MORE. MUCH OF THIS INFRASTRUCTURE THAT WE ALL RELY ON EVERY DAY WAS BUILT DECADES AGO AND IS FAR PAST ITS DESIGNED LIFESPAN.

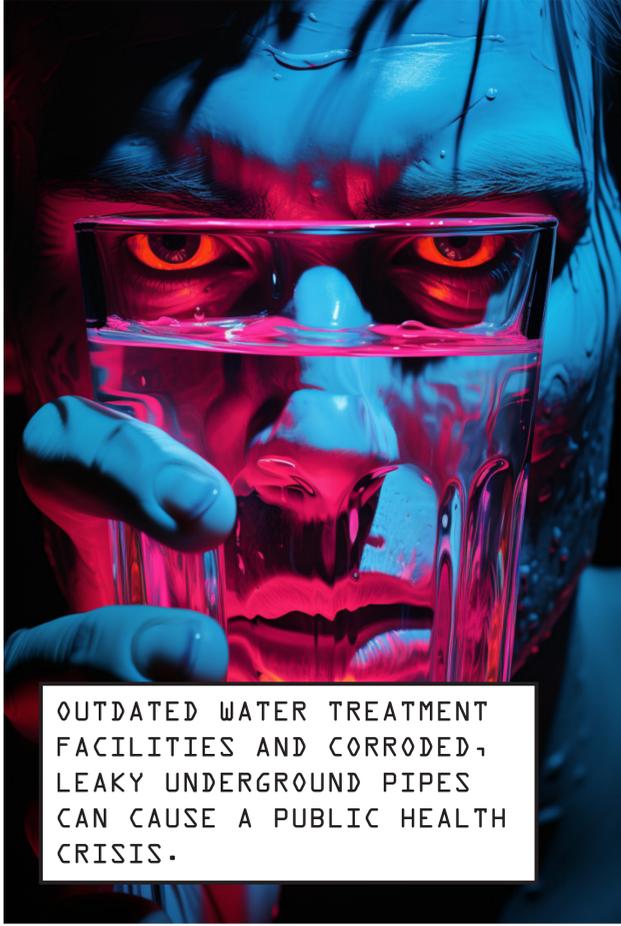


THAT SOUNDS... NOT GREAT.



INDEED. CONSIDER PUBLIC SAFETY. INFRASTRUCTURE IN DISREPAIR SUCH AS HIGHWAYS, RAILROADS AND BRIDGES CAN LEAD TO FATAL ACCIDENTS LIKE CRASHES, DERAILMENTS AND COLLAPSES.

A RECENT REPORT ESTIMATED THAT OVER 47,000 BRIDGES ARE DEFICIENT IN THE U.S. ALONE.



OUTDATED WATER TREATMENT FACILITIES AND CORRODED, LEAKY UNDERGROUND PIPES CAN CAUSE A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS.

THERE ARE ALSO OTHER IMPACTS. TRANSPORT ALLOWS PEOPLE AND GOODS TO MOVE EFFICIENTLY AND PREDICTABLY. IF INFRASTRUCTURE FAILS, SUPPLY CHAIN INTERRUPTIONS CAN CAUSE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC DISRUPTION.



AND THEN THERE ARE SECOND AND THIRD ORDER EFFECTS LIKE POOR ROAD CONDITIONS CAUSING DAMAGE TO VEHICLES...

...OR ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE SUCH AS OIL SPILLS FROM AGING PIPELINES, OR INCREASED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM OUTDATED ENERGY SYSTEMS.



EVEN PROPERTY VALUES OF RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE CAN BE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED.



OKAY, OKAY! I GET IT. INFRASTRUCTURE DECAY IS KIND OF A BIG DEAL.



EXPERTS AGREE THAT THESE IMPROVEMENTS WILL TAKE TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT.



SO WHAT DO WE DO? IT SEEMS LIKE THIS WILL ALL JUST KEEP GETTING WORSE IF SOMETHING DOESN'T CHANGE.



TO BE CLEAR, MUCH WORK IS ALREADY UNDERWAY. MANY OF THE SMARTEST ENGINEERS, DEVOTED PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND ENGAGED CITIZENS ARE DEDICATING THEIR CAREERS AND LIVES TO IMPROVING AND REBUILDING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE.



BRIDGES, ROADS, AND OTHER FACILITIES ARE REGULARLY INSPECTED WITH RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS.



PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS ARE HELPING TO FUND IMPORTANT PROJECTS.



CONGRESS HAS ALREADY PASSED SEVERAL FUNDING BILLS AIMED AT INFRASTRUCTURE.



MATERIAL SCIENCE AND OTHER ADVANCEMENTS WILL MAKE ASPHALT PAVEMENT, CONCRETE AND OTHER MATERIALS LAST LONGER AND REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINT.



AI ADVANCES WILL MAKE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE ELEMENTS BETTER AND MORE EFFICIENT.



AND REPAIRS ARE ALWAYS UNDERWAY, OFTEN PRIORITIZED BY THE MOST PRESSING NEEDS.



I'M FEELING A LITTLE BETTER NOW. BUT WHAT MORE CAN WE DO? WHAT COULD AN AVERAGE CITIZEN DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?



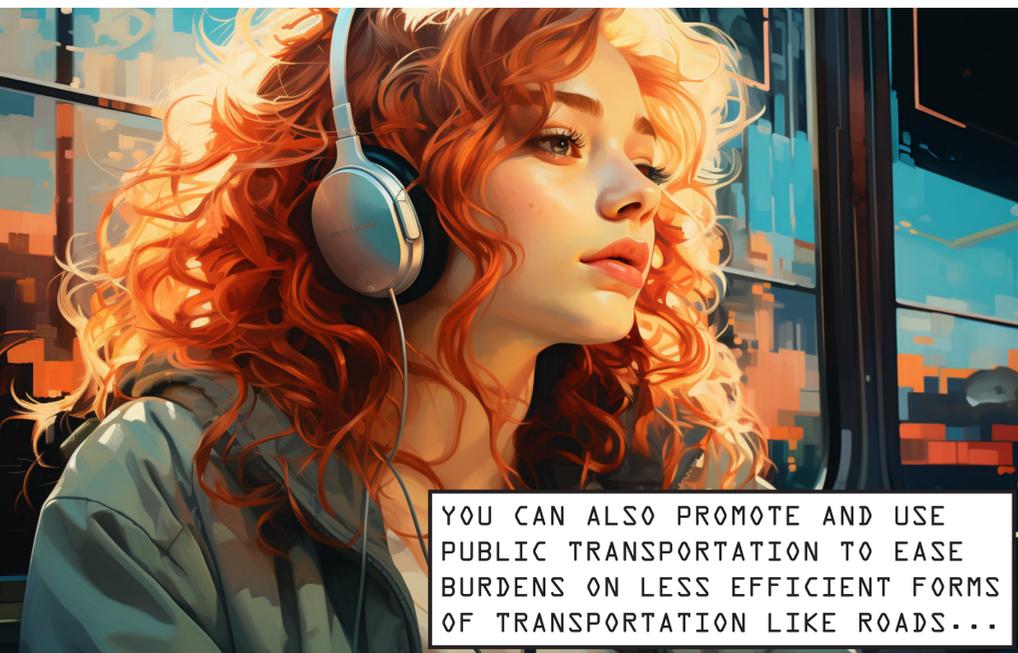
PERHAPS THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO IS ATTEND AND PARTICIPATE IN PUBLIC MEETINGS AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS. THIS WILL MAKE SURE YOUR VOICE IS HEARD BY THOSE OVERSEEING AND PRIORITIZING THESE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS.



YOU CAN EDUCATE YOURSELF AND OTHERS...



...AND YOU CAN CONTACT YOUR GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES TO EMPHASIZE THESE ISSUES AND ASK HOW YOU CAN HELP.



YOU CAN ALSO PROMOTE AND USE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO EASE BURDENS ON LESS EFFICIENT FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION LIKE ROADS...



AND SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ECONOMIC HEALTH OF YOUR COMMUNITY.



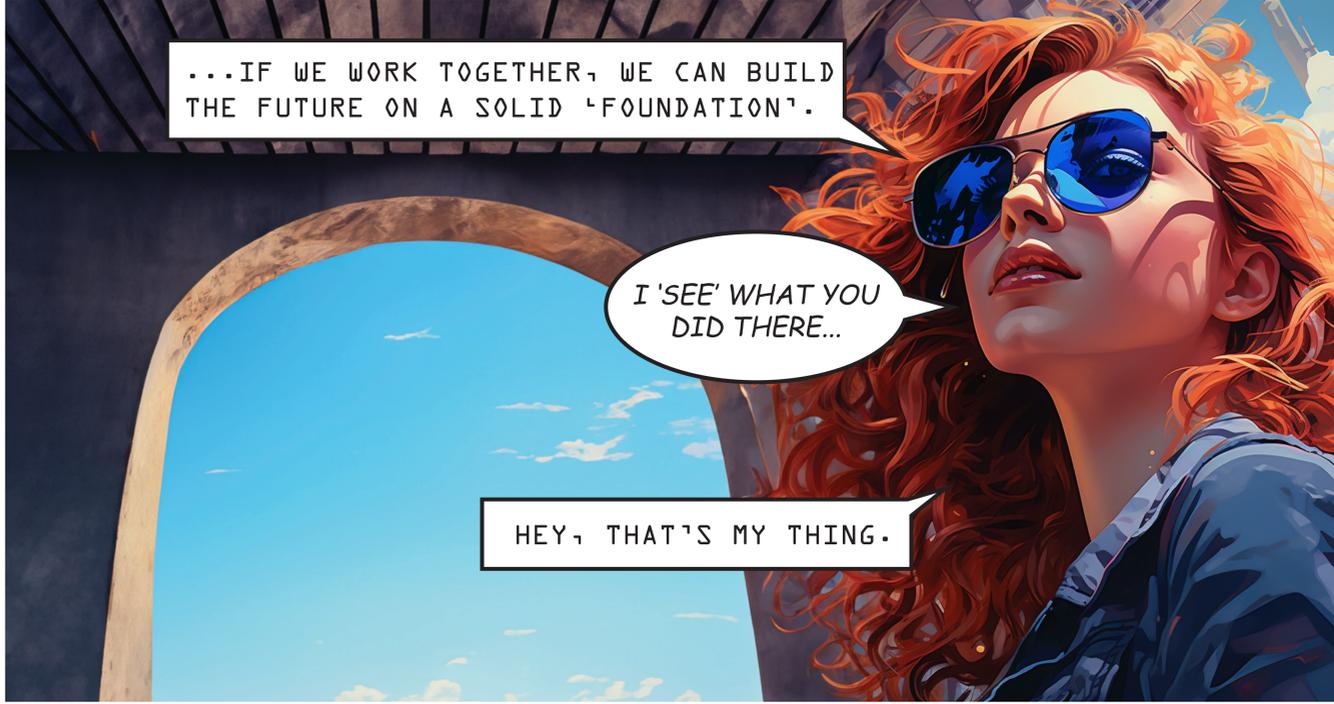
OKAY OND, I'M IN. SO WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE TURN THINGS AROUND? ASSUMING WE DON'T DIE IN A FIERY BRIDGE COLLAPSE...



THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ENDLESS, BEY. WITH RENEWED INFRASTRUCTURE BUILT WITH NEW MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES, THE FUTURE COULD BE SAFER, MORE EFFICIENT AND MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN WE COULD EVEN IMAGINE.



IMAGINE WHAT INNOVATION CAN BRING 'DOWN THE ROAD'? ENERGY HARVESTING ROADS, SELF-HEALING CONCRETE, FLYING CARS...



...IF WE WORK TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD THE FUTURE ON A SOLID 'FOUNDATION'.

I 'SEE' WHAT YOU DID THERE...

HEY, THAT'S MY THING.



LET'S BUILD AN WORLD THAT IS 'BEYOND' AMAZING.

I'M GOING TO RE-PROGRAM YOU TO BE LESS CRINGE.

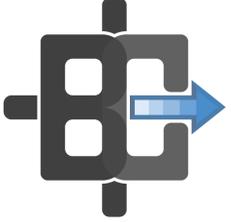
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