

Dear Past Matthew,

I am writing to you from the year 2030 where I have arrived via alien time travel technology introduced during the tail end of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is much to share and be forewarned of. Heed our words and begin preparing now for ultimate survival. In their desperate effort to revive a virus-decimated economy, the US Government was forced to make Full Disclosure of their knowledge of and coordination with the "Gray" aliens that have been visiting earth and living among us for hundreds of years. As a result we know that aliens have been shaping the human race for all of modern history. We also have limited access to their technology. The government has feigned maintaining "public" access to these technologies, but in reality all of the resources are being developed and controlled by private aerospace and silicon valley contractors. Matthew Projects was nearly bankrupted by the post-virus depression, but saved by a partnership with larger firms, especially Roadcross Labs, which is how we gain access to the test time travel program. In early 2021 I drove cross country to San Francisco where we met up with Nigvesh to help coordinate quick build, social distancing pedestrian infrastructure. I / you, whom I will henceforth refer to as "we", were able to get early time travel access via Nigvesh's Bay Area contacts at Facebook and Google. The Silicon Valley time machine reopened to a world devoid of private cars, replaced by a sparkling tide of individual mobility devices, purified transit fleets, and humming arteries of self-driving delivery vehicles. All streets have been turned into pedestrian ways filled with walkers, bicyclists, and people using a creative array of rechargeable wheelchairs, scooters, and segways. Arterial streets have been completely transformed into transit and delivery corridors. Highways have been repurposed as transit / delivery ways and linear parks. Algorithmically directed, autonomous local and express electric buses are the primary modes of transit. In nice weather the buses are open air to mitigate virus contamination. When it rains or gets too cold the windows automatically close as needed and riders put on their stylish purifying masks. To optimize urban efficiency new low density development has been banned and greenbelts instituted around all existing cities. Slow growth continues, but is all parking lot infill and teardowns / densification. The most far flung suburbs were not included in the greenbelt and as a result are not served by transit or delivery fleets. Most of those sprawling areas have been bought back by the government and are in the process of being deconstructed, recycled, and converted to agricultural land. Some ultra-rich enclaves are holding out and paying for their own private services. A lot more people are working from home - almost all office jobs are now remote. While some have mourned the loss of commuter life, neighborhood life is thriving. Back in the cities social life has rebounded, but with greater use of public spaces. People are congregating in parks and on streets. It's now common practice to use hand sanitizer on our way in and out of interior spaces. Most places are certified as "ventilated" according to new building code standards, but some older structures are grandfathered in and carry "enter at your own risk" warnings. In these places it's required that everyone wears a mask. It's been challenging to adjust to our new personal life. We shuttled back to Baltimore and have since been saddled with extensive renovations to make the house licensed for occupancy. We've been living at Rose's place for months while using the old home in West Baltimore as storage while it's under renovation. There are some big low interest loans available from the government, but we are trying to do as much of the work on our own as possible. A lot of people lost everything in the post-COVID-19 depression. While student debt was forgiven, inflation skyrocketed, so people are turned to other forms of value exchange like barter and time banking. Matthew Projects had to recycle most of our old equipment and have since invested in new technologies for right-of-way art. Business is booming, and we have half a dozen full time employees, but money is still pretty tight. We spend a lot of time trading neighborhood improvements for farm shares. Politically the Democrats have all but taken over the government after Trump's authoritarian regime was toppled, but not entirely for the better. The Dems all but

merged with the GOP and are now dominated by corporate forces. There is only one party - the American Party. The corporatocracy is now challenged by municipal associations - essentially confederations of cities that are coordinating sharing of goods and services. There is hope in cities, but friction with the global cabal running DC. A bit of advice - don't worry about finishing all of our projects or the small battles at hand. Everything will need to be rebuilt. Work on building personal trust and organization alliances among like minded neighbors. Our strength is through care. Matthew