

Meta-what now?

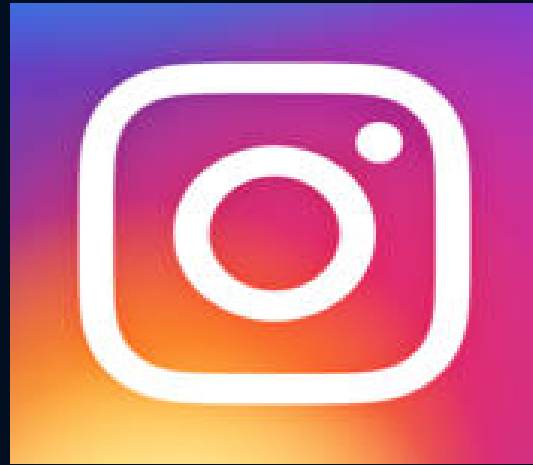
NAVIGATING YOUR CITY THROUGH THE NEXT EVOLUTION OF
SOCIAL CONNECTION: POSSIBILITIES, POLICIES, & PITFALLS

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Blogger



Welcome to Meta for Government, Politics and Advocacy

The metaverse is the next evolution in a long line of social technologies, and it's ushering in a new chapter for our company.



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/gpa/blog/facebook-company-is-now-meta>

Next Chapter?

...We are at the beginning of the **next chapter** for the internet, and it's the next chapter for our company too.

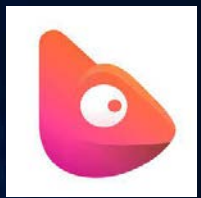
In recent decades, technology has given people the **power to connect** and **express ourselves** more naturally. When I started Facebook, we mostly typed text on websites. When we got phones with cameras, the internet became more visual and mobile. As connections got faster, video became a richer way to share experiences. We've gone from **desktop to web to mobile**; from text to photos to video. But this isn't the end of the line.

The next platform will be even more **immersive** — an **embodied internet** where you're in the experience, not just looking at it. We call this the **metaverse**, and it will **touch every product** we build...

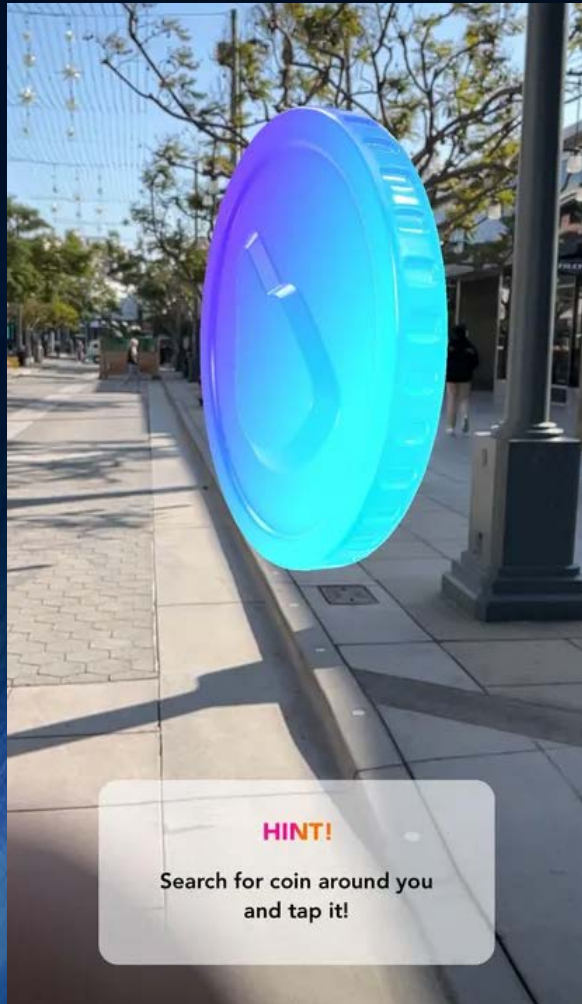
- Mark Zuckerberg, October 28, 2021, Connect 2021

Report: Governments stand to benefit from 'metaverse' and its associated technologies





AR/VR Tourism: FlickPlay - Santa Monica, Ca.





Blockchain: MyPass - Austin, TX



Getting the Service You
Need Has Never Been This
Easy

A photograph of several people sitting at a long table in a computer lab or office setting. They are looking at laptops and talking to each other. The scene is dimly lit with blue and green ambient lighting.

MyPass Austin is the first secure digital platform for protecting and sharing your identity documents.



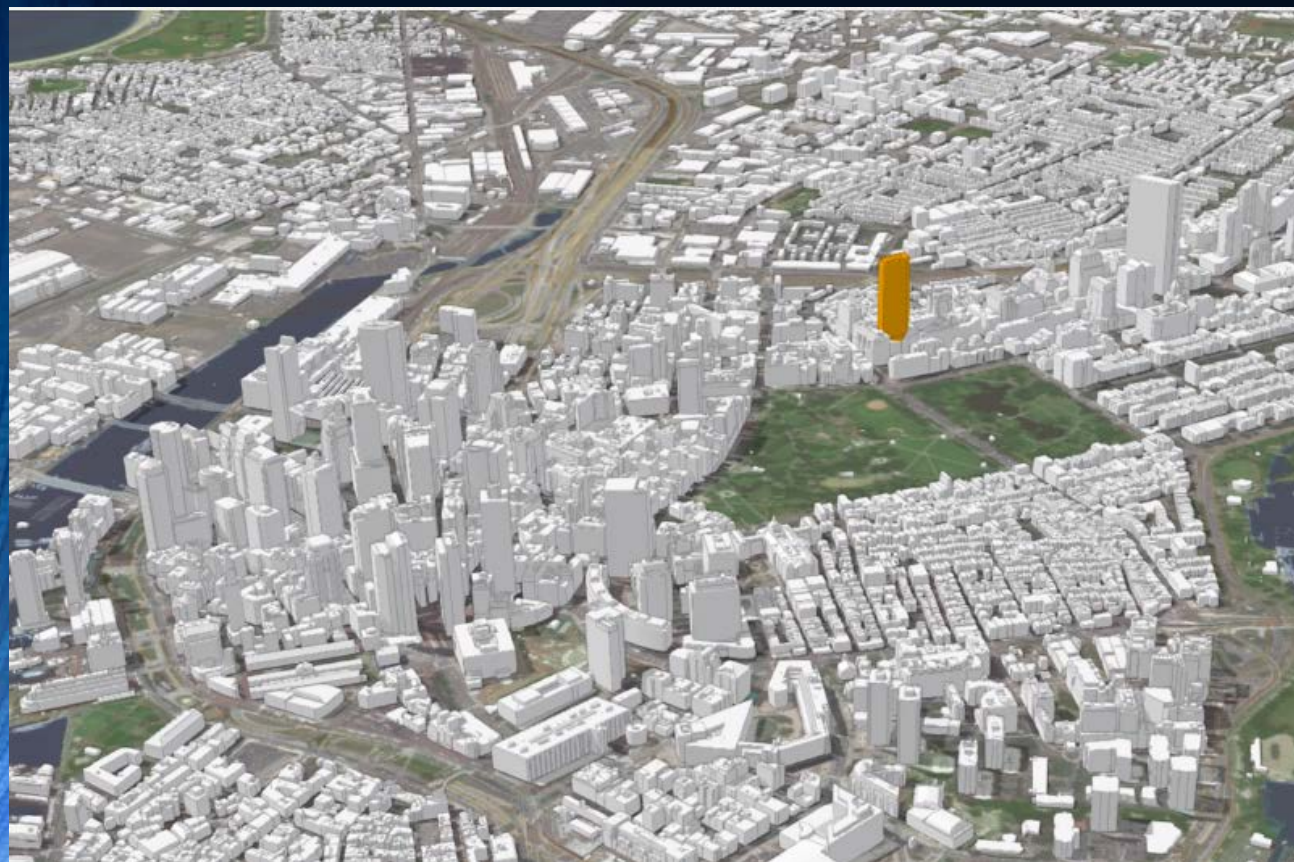
Cryptocurrency/Mining: Fort Worth, TX; Austin, TX; MiamiCoin





Digital Twin:

Boston, MA; Barcelona, Spain





Metaverse Cities: Seoul, South Korea



Image Sources: <https://www.cnbc.com/2022/05/30/south-koreas-investment-in-the-metaverse-could-provide-a-blueprint.html>;
<http://koreabizwire.com/s-korea-aims-to-become-worlds-5th-biggest-metaverse-market-by-2026/209482>



Metaverse Cities: Shanghai, China



Common Pitfalls?

- Digital Equity and Accessibility
- Cybersecurity
- Data Privacy
- 1st Amendment Issues
- Elections
- Open Meetings Act
- Public Information Act
- Records Retention
- Public Funds Expenditure



Image by [Chetraruc from Pixabay](#)

Digital Equity and Accessibility

- Companies, and a few local governments, are getting on the metaverse bandwagon.
- However, experiencing the metaverse requires technology that **isn't accessible to all**.
- Experts warn this could prevent a large swathe of the population from getting on to the metaverse, further broadening the Digital Divide.

Digital Equity and Accessibility

Bridging the Digital Divide

- Brownsville was recognized for their efforts on the Connect Brownsville project in Digital Equity and Accessibility.
- Brownsville has consistently ranked as one the least connected cities in the United States:
 - **67% of households** do not have cable, a digital subscriber line (DSL), or fiber broadband, and
 - Nearly **half of the Brownsville's residents struggle** to access the internet, conduct personal business, or complete schoolwork.
- City's comprehensive plan for a fiber-optic network owned by both the **public and private partners**, including last-mile fiber. Currently, the City is embarking on a 24-month effort to develop its own 93-mile middle-mile backbone network utilizing **\$19.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding**, allowing for further opportunities to work with private partners such as BTX Fiber to deploy last-mile services in priority areas of the community. Additionally, the City's proposed network will connect 32 anchor institutions including city facilities, Police, Fire, EMS, and public parks.



The metaverse has a groping problem... already?

- Sexually harassment - on November 26 a beta tester reported being groped by a stranger on Horizon Worlds
- Online trolling and bullying
- Murder...Assault?
 - Actual crime against a person or speech related charge? What about 1st Amendment?



"1st Amendment: Marketplace of ideas"

Packingham v. North Carolina, 137 S. Ct. 1730, 198 L. Ed. 2d 273 (2017) - "Marketplace of ideas"

Mahanoy Area Sch. Dist. v. B. L., 141 S. Ct. 2038 (2021) - "the potty-mouthed Snapchat cheerleader case"

Davison v. Randall, 912 F.3d 666 (4th Cir. 2019) - Court noted that social media may be "the most important" modern forum "for the exchange of news."

Biden v. Knight First Amend. Inst, at Columbia Univ., 141 S. Ct. 1220 - The Supreme Court of the United States granted certiorari in Knight after Trump was not re-elected in 2020.

The Court vacated the Second Circuit's judgment and remanded the case with instructions to dismiss as moot.

But See Dissent....



“Marketplace of ideas”

Robinson v. Hunt County, Texas, 921 F.3d 440 (5th Cir. 2019) - “Official censorship based on a state actor’s subjective judgment that the content of protected speech is offensive or inappropriate is viewpoint discrimination.”

Maria Gresham v. City of Atlanta, No. 12-12968 (11th Cir. 2013) – “Who would like to hear the story of how I arrested a forgery perp at Best Buy only to find out later at the precinct that he was the nephew of an Atlanta Police Investigator who stuck her ass in my case and obstructed it? Not to mention the fact that while he was in my custody, she took him into several other rooms alone before I knew they were related. Who thinks this is unethical?”

Liverman v. City of Petersburg, 844 F.3d 400 (4th Circuit) (2016) - Herbert Liverman posted on his personal FB page: *“Sitting here reading posts referencing rookie cops becoming instructors. Give me a freaking break, over 15 years of data collected by the FBI in reference to assaults on officers and officer deaths show that on average it takes at least 5 years for an officer to acquire the necessary skill set to know the job...”*

Bland v. Roberts, 730 F.3d 368, 371 (4th Cir. 2013), as amended (Sept. 23, 2013) - *Deputy Sheriff “liked” his boss’s opponent’s election Facebook page. “You made your bed, and now you’re going to lie in it—after the election, you’re gone.”*



QUESTIONS?

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