


Thrive Montgomery 2050 – Issues Report

 Khalid Afzal, Special Projects Coordinator, Director's Office Khalid.Afzal@montgomeryplanning.org, 301.495.4650

 Caroline McCarthy, Chief, Research & Special Projects, Caroline.Mccarthy@montgomeryplanning.org, 301.495.4506

 Gwen Wright, Director, Montgomery County Planning Department, gwen.wright@montgomeryplanning.org

Completed: 2/20/2020

Staff Recommendation:

Review and approve the Issues Report for Thrive Montgomery 2050.

Introduction:

Staff briefed the Planning Board on December 12, 2019, on a draft list of issues to be addressed in Thrive Montgomery 2050. Based on the Board comments and the feedback received from the community through January 16, 2020, staff has expanded the draft list of issues into the attached Issues Report. Staff is seeking the Board's approval to finalize and publish the Issues Report.

The Issues Report is part of a series of documents to be produced in the course of preparing Thrive Montgomery 2050. It will serve as the basis for the next step in the General Plan update process - developing draft goals and policies for the Plan.

The issues presented in this report are informed by extensive community outreach and feedback from all stakeholders between June 2019 and January 2020. The input received was both about short-term concerns that will be addressed through area master and sector plans, as well as about broader, more long-term issues. The attached Issues Report focuses on broader, more global issues appropriate to be addressed in Thrive Montgomery 2050.

For the next step, Staff is currently working on a draft set of Goals and Policies to address the issues contained in the Issues Report. Staff will present the draft list of Goals and Policies to the Planning Board on April 2, 2020 for review and comments. Staff will continue to elicit suggestions and comments from all stakeholders through summer 2020 to modify or add to the draft Goals and Policies. In June 2020, Staff will come back to the Board for a project status report and seek guidance on any outstanding issues or questions. In September 2020, Staff will prepare and publish a draft Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan for public review and feedback followed by a Planning Board public hearing on the draft Plan in November 2020. Planning Board work sessions to review the public testimony and finalize the draft Plan will occur through February 2021. In March 2021, Staff will transmit the Planning Board Draft Plan to the County Executive and the County Council for their review and approval.

There are three attachments to this memorandum:

1. Issues Report
2. Community comments received between December 12, 2019, and January 16, 2020.
3. Appendix - Engagement Update