







**Thrive Montgomery 2050– Briefing on Draft Visions and Goals**

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**Introduction**

On February 27, 2020, Montgomery Planning staff presented to the Planning Board the Thrive Montgomery 2050 [Issues Report](#), which served as the basis for the draft General Plan Vision and Goals included in this memorandum. Planning staff will provide an update briefing on continued work on Thrive Montgomery 2050, with the objective of receiving comments and direction from the Planning Board. As of the publishing of this memorandum staff has received only one letter of testimony, which is included here as Attachment 4.

This memorandum has four attachments:

1. [Introduction to Thrive Montgomery 2050](#) provides context and background for the General Plan Update, including the purpose and outcomes of [Thrive Montgomery 2050](#); the current state of the county and the region; the major issues and future challenges the new General Plan should address; and a brief introduction of the draft General Plan Vision and Goals.
2. [Draft Vision and Goals](#) includes an overall countywide General Plan vision statement followed by vision statements and goals for each of the eight Plan categories; and
3. [Outreach Strategy](#) describes how Montgomery Planning will conduct all of its community outreach and engagement for this phase of Thrive Montgomery 2050 using online platforms during this time of social distancing.
4. [Letter from Pam Lindstrom to the Planning Board members and staff.](#)

The draft Vision and Goals are the initial effort to articulate our collective aspirations for Montgomery County over the next thirty years and the kind of goals needed to achieve those aspirations. The draft vision statements and goals included here are based on community feedback collected in various formats during the first phase of Thrive Montgomery 2050 outreach; background studies and research by Planning staff; intensive deliberation by staff working groups with a wide range of expertise and interests; and staff engagement with Montgomery County and State of Maryland partner agencies. The draft General Plan Vision and Goals are a starting point for gathering input and ideas from all stakeholders to inform further refinement of the vision statements and goals.

The Planning Board’s discussion and guidance on the draft Vision and Goals will inform Montgomery Planning’s work on draft policies and actions for the General Plan. While goals are the long-range and broad impact we want to accomplish through the General Plan, policies are high-level guidance for future planning and development. Policies are ongoing activities that will shape how future land use, public facilities, infrastructure and other planning and public investment decisions will be conducted. General Plan policies also will influence

how and where future development will take place. Actions are specific, tangible activities to implement a policy. The General Plan's actions will not be a definitive list of direct steps to implement the Plan; they are a starting point in defining what plans, detailed studies, and other initiatives will be needed to implement the Plan's policies through public and private activities. New actions also will emerge in the future as the General Plan is implemented over multiple decades.

Please note that the draft General Plan vision and goals were developed before the Coronavirus pandemic caused significant economic and social disruption across the United States. Therefore, the broad impacts of this pandemic are not reflected in what is being presented to the Board today. While General Plans provide long-term thinking, they are influenced by conditions at the time they are drafted, and we are still observing and processing how the pandemic is impacting our local and national communities. We would like feedback from the Planning Board on how to consider and address the impacts of the pandemic in the General Plan's guidance going forward.

### **Next Steps**

The following are the remaining timeline and major steps of Thrive Montgomery 2050 based on the approved schedule and work program of the project. This timeline may need to be updated once we know the full impact of the disruptions caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.

- Late April: Montgomery Planning staff will discuss the draft General Plan Vision and Goals with the Technical Advisory Group. Staff will continue to work with the Technical Advisory Group and our partner agencies throughout the rest of the Thrive Montgomery 2050 development process.
- May or early June 2020: staff will present draft General Plan policies and actions to the Planning Board for review and guidance. The draft policies and actions also will be available for community review and feedback.
- Late April through July 2020: Montgomery Planning staff will conduct outreach to elicit comments on the draft General Plan Vision, Goals and Policies from all stakeholders, including individual community members.
- July 2020: staff will return to the Planning Board with a project status report and seek guidance on any outstanding issues or questions.
- September 2020: Montgomery Planning will publish the draft Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan for public review and feedback.
- November 2020: the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the draft Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan.
- November 2020 through February 2021: the Planning Board will hold work sessions to review public testimony and finalize the draft Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan.
- March 2021: the Planning Board will transmit the Planning Board Draft Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan to the County Executive and the County Council for their review and approval.