




Thrive Montgomery 2050 Worksession No. 2: Revised Draft--Section 1: Why we need a new comprehensive plan for the county

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Introduction

During the first worksession on December 17, 2020, the Planning Board received an overview of the public comments and highlights of the major issues raised in the verbal and written testimonies. The Planning Board reviewed and approved the revised outline to reorganize the Plan in order to address the public comments and the Board's guidance to make the draft Plan more concise, reduce redundancies, and sharpen its main concepts and the core message. The Planning Board also approved a tentative work program for upcoming worksessions.

The main topic of discussion for today's worksession and approval by the Planning Board is an initial draft of "*Section 1--why we need a new plan*" (ATTACHMENT 1), which lays out the need for updating the county's General Plan, the context of where we are, and the rationale for Thrive Montgomery 2050's approach to achieve our goals for an economically competitive, equitable, and environmentally resilient place over the next 30 years. Section 1 will replace the first 50 pages of the current Public Hearing Draft including INTRODUCTION, PLANNING CONTEXT, and A PLAN TO THRIVE.

Staff also seeks approval of the schedule and topics of future worksessions. Except for January 14 and 21, all other topics are tentative and may need to be switched around to address the Board's comments or bring back any additional information to the Board for further discussion, as needed.

Starting with worksession 3 on January 14, staff will present a draft chapter (called Theme) based on the revised outline of the Plan at each of the worksessions for Board's approval. In order to let the Planning Board and the public know in advance of what will be discussed at each worksession, an outline of the chapter/theme will be published two weeks in advance of the worksession. This means that the staff packet for every worksession will include: 1) the relevant material for the main topic of the worksession; and 2) an outline of what will be discussed at the following worksession. In addition, staff also intends to publish any relevant material such as a study or analysis, that will be presented to the Board at an upcoming worksession two weeks in advance of that worksession. Therefore, today's packet includes – in addition to the draft of Section 1 – an outline of the main topic of discussion for the January 14 worksession--*Theme #4: Affordable and attainable housing: more of everything*, and a summary of the *Residential Development Capacity Analysis* that was completed as supplemental analysis.

Tentative Schedule and topics of future worksessions

Date	Worksession	Worksession topic
Thursday, 1/14/21	Worksession 3	Theme #4: Affordable and attainable housing: more of everything. Briefing on Residential Development Capacity Analysis
Thursday, 1/21/21	Worksession 4	Theme #3: Transportation and communication networks: connecting people, places and ideas. Briefing on transportation modeling analysis
Monday, 1/25/21	Worksession 5	Theme #1: Compact growth: corridor-focused development
Thursday, 1/28/21	Worksession 6	Theme #5: Design, arts and culture: adding value and building community
Monday, 2/1/21	Worksession 7	Theme #6: Parks and recreation for an increasingly urban and diverse community: active and social
Thursday, 2/4/21	Worksession 8	Theme #2: Complete communities: mix of uses and forms. Briefing on Equity Focus Areas analysis.
Thursday, 2/4/21		Briefing on Climate Action Plan as a separate agenda item.
Thursday, 2/11/21	Worksession 9	Section 3: Implementation chapter. Briefing on indicators to be included in the Plan
Thursday, 2/18/21	Worksession 10	Anything that needs to be brought back to the Planning Board from previous worksessions
Thursday, 2/25/21	Worksession 11	Planning Board to approve the final recommendations—last chance for any changes by the Board
Thursday, 4/8/21		Planning Board to approve the Planning Board Draft Plan for transmittal to the CE and CC

Attachments

ATTACHMENT 1 is the revised introduction, context and rational for the draft Plan, now called *Section 1: Why we need a new comprehensive plan for the county*

ATTACHMENT 2 is an outline of *Theme #4: Affordable and attainable housing: more of everything*. (the full draft of Theme # 4 will be discussed with the Planning Board on January 14, 2021).

ATTACHMENT 3 is a summary of the Residential Development Capacity Analysis. (The full analysis will be presented to Planning Board on January 14, 2021).

ATTACHMENT 4 is an updated summary table of all testimony received by December 10, 2020. The table also includes staff responses to the comments that pertain to the topics being addressed during this worksession. As we proceed through subsequent worksessions, staff will add its responses to the public comments pertaining to the topic area of each worksession.

ATTACHMENT 5 is a compilation of all written testimony submitted by December 10, 2020.

The transcript of the November 19, 2020 public hearing can be accessed [here](#).