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MontgomeryPlanning.org

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Great Seneca Science Corridor Minor Master Plan Amendment: Work Session Number 1

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Summary

Staff presented the Working Draft of the Great Seneca Science Corridor Minor Master Plan Amendment to the Planning Board on April 22, 2021. The Planning Board held its public hearing on the Great Seneca Science Corridor Minor Master Plan Amendment on June 3 and extended the public hearing record through June 13, 2021 for additional written testimony to be submitted. A summary of the public testimony received to date is attached to this memorandum.

During this first work session, staff will summarize the public testimony received, as well as discuss the rationale for the Plan Amendment recommendations with the Planning Board. Planning Board members can bring their copies of the Public Hearing Draft that were previously distributed to them or access the Public Hearing Draft at the following link: https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Public-Hearing-Draft -<u>Final.pdf</u>. Planning Board members are encouraged to have the draft plan available for reference during the work session.

Attachment

1. Summary of Public Testimony and Staff Response

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	Issues/Property	Public Hearing Draft Plan Page #	Testimony or Comments	Staff Response	Planning Board Decision
1.	Johns Hopkins Belward Campus		Request to cap the allowable zoning capacity on the Johns Hopkins Belward Campus site at 1.4 million square feet. Donna Barron	This Amendment does not recommend any changes to the established zoning. The Amendment recommends initiating a Phase 2 amendment that will comprehensively review the area and develop recommendations, potentially including changes to zoning.	
2.	Recommendations 1 and 2		Supportive of the Public Hearing Draft recommendations. Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce	Noted.	

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3.	Corridor Cities Transitway		Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT) is an impediment to development and development should not be tied to the CCT. The CCT should be eliminated as a staging requirement. Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce	Staging was put in place as a compact with the community as part of the 2010 Great Seneca Science Corridor Minor Master Plan. Staff believe that big changes to the staging plan be accompanied by a comprehensive review of the area and a robust community engagement process. In Phase 2, staff proposes to examine and evaluate all of the staging requirements.	

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4.	Timeline of Phase 2 Amendment		Concern that the comprehensive review will be "put in the back of the line", resulting in a delay for the initiation of Phase 2.	Phase 2 of the Amendment has been approved by the County Council in the Montgomery	
			Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce	Planning workplan. Phase 2 will initiate in February 2022.	