Montgomery Planning

CENTERS AND CORRIDOR SEGMENT TYPOLOGIES



Description

Thrive Montgomery 2050 aspires for compact growth supported by transit and a safe, comfortable, and appealing network for walking, biking, and rolling within the county's centers and along our major corridors. While Montgomery Planning has completed plans for the county's centers over the last few decades, the concept of compact, corridor-focused growth is new and requires the establishment of a shared vision and characteristics to apply in subsequent plans, studies, and initiatives. Montgomery Planning Staff led an internal effort to develop this shared vision and is pleased to brief the Planning Board on this effort on June 6, 2024.

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SUMMARY

- *Thrive Montgomery 2050* (Thrive) offers guidance on the vision for centers and identifies the general locations for growth, including the corridor-focused growth area and the limited growth area, but does not define corridor-focused growth.
- Transitioning to Thrive's vision for corridor-focused growth requires consideration and strategy, beginning with a shared vision that defines corridor-focused growth and provides foundational guidance to Planning Staff for the development of future corridor plans.
- Planning Staff led a robust, internal effort to establish a shared vision for corridor-focused growth through the development of three corridor segment typologies and the transportation, urban design, and environmental elements associated with each. Planning Staff engaged a consultant to illustrate the intensity of development, building mass, scale, and placement, as well as transportation and sustainability elements associated with each typology.

Centers and Corridor Segment Typologies

Planning Board Briefing

<u>Date</u>

5-30-2024

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BACKGROUND

Thrive Montgomery 2050 (Thrive), aspires for compact growth supported by transit and a safe, comfortable, and appealing network for walking, biking, and rolling within the county's centers and along our major corridors. The major corridors identified in Thrive span a diverse set of urban, suburban, and rural geographies and currently face conditions that include underutilized commercial uses and inadequate infrastructure to walk, bike, and roll. Decades of plans have recommended the preservation and protection of single-family uses along the major corridors and prioritized vehicular throughput and ease of driving.

Thrive offers guidance on the vision for centers, ranging from large centers to villages, and identifies the general locations for growth, including the corridor-focused growth area and the limited growth area. While Thrive identifies Growth Corridors and acknowledges that "the intensity of development along these corridors should be aligned with the urban, suburban, and rural context of the surrounding area and calibrated to account for existing or planned transit and other transportation infrastructure" (Page 70), it does not define corridor-focused growth. Transitioning to Thrive's vision for corridor-focused growth requires consideration and strategy, beginning with a shared vision that defines compact, corridor-focused growth and provides foundational guidance to Planning Staff for the development of future corridor plans.



PROCESS

Since the adoption of Thrive, Planning Staff have advanced an internal, staff-led effort to establish a shared vision of corridor-focused growth to ensure that future planning efforts, including corridor plans, have a common foundation on which to build a vision and recommendations in consultation with community members and stakeholders. This effort began with a series of internal workshops to define corridor-focused growth and identify actions necessary to achieve it. Discussions during the workshops demonstrated that the definition of corridor-focused growth is nuanced, with some corridors having the potential for growth and development along the full length of the corridor and others likely having the potential for growth and development at centers of activity – or nodes – along the corridor.

Following the internal workshops, Planning Supervisors across several of Montgomery Planning's divisions analyzed the feedback received and presented recommendations to Department leadership. These recommendations included: 1) the development of corridor segment typologies; 2) developing transportation, urban design, and environmental elements associated with each typology; 3) identifying the transportation, urban design, and environmental elements associated with each center; and 4) identifying the base requirements for all corridor segment typologies. Department leadership concurred with the recommendations, and a robust internal effort followed to advance the typologies.

After developing corridor segment typologies and the elements associated with each typology, Planning Staff engaged a consultant to illustrate the intensity of development, building mass, scale, and placement, as well as transportation and sustainability elements associated with each typology. The consultant, Design Collective, Inc. worked with Planning Staff over several months to develop base models, sections, and renderings to illustrate each of the three corridor segment typologies. The corridor segment typologies are discussed in greater detail below, and included in Attachment A.

CORRIDOR SEGMENT TYPOLOGIES

The corridor segment typologies establish a shared vision for compact, corridor-focused growth within three corridor typologies: transformational growth, modest growth, and no growth, as discussed in greater detail below.

- Transformational growth: This typology anticipates high density, mixed-use development within the nodes along the corridor segment, and moderate-to-high density mixed-use development fronting the corridor between nodes. This typology includes the development of a grid of streets along the full extent of the segment and frequently spaced protected crossings.
- Modest growth: This segment typology anticipates moderate-to-high density, mixed-use development within the nodes along the corridor segment, and low-to-moderate (gentle), predominantly residential density between the nodes. This typology includes the

development of a grid of streets along the full extent of the corridor segment and frequently spaced protected crossings.

• No growth: This corridor segment typology anticipates high, mixed-use density within centers of activity or nodes along the corridor, but no new development fronting the corridor between the nodes. Rather, this typology anticipates low to-moderate densities and varied uses fronting parallel streets along the corridor between the nodes. In addition, this typology anticipates new development to engage with the corridor at the nodes, either by submerging or elevating the corridor, to reconnect communities on either side of the corridor.

These typologies are intended to provide Planning Staff a foundation in the development of a vision and recommendations for future corridor plans. While each corridor plan will be unique, and could include a combination of the segment typologies, the typologies and associated characteristics provide a point of commencement for developing corridor plans in consultation with community members and stakeholders. The definitions, renderings, models, sections, and characteristics seek to ensure that future corridor plans are initiated and pursued from a collective understanding of compact, corridor-focused growth.

CENTERS

Centers of activity are also envisioned to accommodate future growth, and while different types of centers are defined in Thrive, Planning Staff determined that it was necessary to conceptually illustrate and define the transportation, urban design, and environmental elements associated with each center. It is also important to acknowledge that growth corridors travel through centers at all scales. While subsequent corridor plans will consider how corridor segment typologies transition to and from existing and planned centers, it is important to acknowledge that different considerations may be appropriate at these transitions.

NEXT STEPS

Thrive Montgomery 2050 has established a very different vision for our growth corridors – one which aspires for compact growth supported by a world class transit system and a safe, comfortable, and appealing network for walking, biking, and rolling. Impactful corridor plans will lead us to that desired future state, but we must guide these individual plans with an overarching framework for corridor planning in the county. Planning for growth along major corridors, as envisioned by Thrive, requires Planning Staff to think strategically about how to define corridor-focused growth, particularly in alignment with the urban, suburban, and rural context of the surrounding area.

Beyond defining corridor segment typologies and their associated characteristics, Planning Staff must also consider the overall planning process to determine if the current process is capable of delivering

Thrive's vision. While these processes are not the focus of the June 6 agenda item, this careful consideration is work that Planning Staff anticipates completing in the coming months.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Centers and Corridor Segment Typologies



Centers and Corridor Segment Typologies

Version 1 May 30, 2024

Montgomery Planning

How To Use This Document

The Centers and Corridor Segment Typologies establish a shared vision and definitions for compact, corridor-focused growth within three corridor typologies: transformational growth, modest growth, and no growth. These typologies are intended to provide Planning Staff a foundation in the development of a vision and recommendations for future corridor plans. While each corridor plan will be unique, the typologies and associated characteristics provide a point of commencement for developing corridor plans in consultation with community members and stakeholders. The definitions, renderings, models, sections, and characteristics seek to ensure that future corridor plans are initiated and pursued from a collective understanding of compact, corridor-focused growth.

Through future corridor plans, staff should evaluate the context of the corridor and determine the typology that will best achieve the vision of the plan, and the vision of Thrive, for each segment of the corridor. While some corridor plans may choose to apply the characteristics of one typology, other corridor plans may apply the characteristics of all three typologies along different segments of the corridor. The figures in this document, particularly the renderings, also provide a visual representation of corridor-focused growth for not only staff, but also community members, stakeholders, and appointed and elected officials.



Centers and Corridor Segment Typologies V.1 | 2



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Purpose

The purpose of the Centers and Corridor Segment Typologies is to establish a shared vision and definitions for compact, corridor-focused growth and provide foundational guidance to Planning Staff in the development of future corridor plans.

Background

Montgomery County's recently approved General Plan, *Thrive Montgomery 2050* (Thrive), aspires for compact growth supported by transit and a safe, comfortable, and appealing network for walking, biking, and rolling within the county's centers and along our major corridors. The major corridors identified in Thrive span a diverse set of urban, suburban, and rural geographies and currently face conditions that include underutilized commercial uses and inadequate infrastructure to walk, bike, or roll. Decades of plans have recommended the preservation and protection of single-family uses along the major corridors and prioritized vehicular throughput and ease of driving. We now know that such practices lead to inequity, are bad for the environment, and make places economically uncompetitive in the long run.

To implement Thrive and advance corridor-focused growth, Montgomery Planning developed center and corridor typologies as well as urban design, transportation, and sustainability characteristics associated with each. These centers range from large centers to villages, and segment typologies range from transformational growth to no growth.

The Growth Map of Montgomery County

While Montgomery County has many different types of corridors, including transportation corridors, natural corridors, and growth corridors, this document is focused on planning for the growth corridors identified in Thrive and how these corridors can achieve the county's policy goals. While the Thrive Growth Map identifies several corridors as growth corridors, each corridor has unique opportunities and challenges. Some growth corridors may have the potential for growth and development along the full length of the corridor and others may have the potential for growth and development at centers of activity or nodes along the corridor, with limited opportunity for growth between centers.

This document establishes three corridor typologies to further define corridor-focused growth and provide a foundation for the development of future corridor plans. The typologies include transformational growth, modest growth, and no growth. In addition to the growth corridors, the Growth Map also includes a corridor-focused growth area, a limited growth area, the rural areas and agricultural reserve, and several centers, ranging from large centers to village and neighborhood centers. Given that the growth corridors traverse different contexts and centers, it is important to consider the growth corridors in the context of the growth areas and consider the relationship of growth corridors to centers at every scale.

The Growth Map identifies several existing and potential centers of activity at a variety of scales, including Large, Medium, and Small as well as Villages and Neighborhood Centers. The centers identified are not exhaustive of all existing or potential centers, but rather are included to demonstrate that centers of activity, where existing and future compact growth should be concentrated, occur within the county's urban, suburban, and rural areas. While future growth should occur in these centers, the amount of growth and intensity of development should be commensurate with the center's location and context.

The Growth Map reflects current land use and is representative of the location and types of growth expected through 2050; however, the corridors and centers shown on the map or aligned with the descriptions provided may evolve over time through future approved and adopted master plans and functional plans. **The Corridor-Focused Growth area** (lightest blue) should have the largest share of new growth. It encompasses the most developed part of the county with highest-density population and employment centers, and the infrastructure to support existing and new development.

The Limited Growth area (medium blue) contains the mainly suburban residential communities where limited, organic growth is envisioned to meet localized needs for services, provide a diverse range of housing choices, and increase racial and socioeconomic integration to achieve Complete Communities.

Rural Areas and the Agricultural Reserve

(in dark blue) will continue to be dedicated primarily to agriculture, rural open space, and environmental preservation. It can absorb some growth as agriculture evolves and existing residential communities' needs change over time.



The Growth Map should be considered in the context of the Compact Growth and Complete Communities chapters. The centers of activity shown are not exhaustive of all existing or potential centers. Some of the centers listed on the growth map are not subject to Montgomery County zoning authority.

- WMATA Red Line MARC Rail Highways Rural Areas and Agricultural Reserve Limited Growth Corridor-Focused Growth Large Centers 1. Bethesda 2. Friendship Heights 3. Shady Grove 4. Glenmont 5. Rockville 6. Silver Spring 7. VIVA White Oak 8. Wheaton 9. North Bethesda Medium Centers 1. Burtonsville 2. Clarksburg 3. Germantown 4. Grosvenor/Strathmore 5. Olney 6. Rock Spring 7. Twinbrook 8. White Oak/FDA Smaller Centers 1. Aspen Hill 2. Damascus

 - 9. Takoma/Langley
 - - 3. Forest Glen
 - 4. Hillandale
 - 5. Kensington
 - 6. Montgomery Village
 - 7. Poolesville

Villages and Neighborhood Centers

- 1. Ashton
- 2. Cabin John
- 3. Cloverly
- 4. Colesville
- 5. Layhill
- 6. Potomac Village
- 7. Redland
- 8. Sandy Spring



Chapter 1: Segment Typologies



Segment Typology 1 - Transformational Growth

Transformational growth along the length of the corridor segment

This typology anticipates high density, mixed-use development within the nodes along the corridor segment, and moderate-to-high density mixed-use development fronting the corridor between the nodes. This typology includes the development of a grid of streets along the full extent of the segment and frequently spaced protected crossings, consistent with the Complete Streets Design Guide (CSDG).



Figure 1: Illustrated view of segment typology 1 - transformational growth along the length of the corridor segment.

Segment Typology 1 - Transformational Growth



Figure 2: Model view of segment typology 1 - transformational growth along the length of the corridor segment.

	TRANSPORT	ATION		URBAN DES	IGN
	Transportation Elements Along t	he Main Growth Corridor		Urban Design Elements Facing	g the Growth Corridor
Α	A Street Classification New: Growth Corridor Blvd			Intensity of Development	High
В	General Purpose Lanes	Lanes 2-4		Building Heights	7+ Stories
С	High Quality Transit (Interim)	Curb Lane Transitway	Urban Design Elements Paralleling the Growth Corridor		
D	High Quality Transit (Permanent)	Two-Way Median Transitway	L	Intensity of Development	Moderate to High
E	Walking & Bicycling	Separated Bike Lanes & Sidewalks	М	Building Heights	4-7 Stories
F	Protected Crossings: CSDG Spacing Targets	400 ft		Design Excellence C	riteria*
G	Grid of Streets: CSDG Spacing Targets	400 ft	* Street Oriented Development, Active Ground Floor Uses, Undergrounding of Utilities, Att		
Н	Slower Speeds: CSDG Spacing Targets	25	Streetscapes, Underground or Structured Parking, and Architecture Meeting Design		
1	Curb Cuts	Relocated to Side Street		Criteria all required	

Table 1: Transportation and urban design elements of segment typology 1.



Figure 3: Section of segment typology 1, taken at the "A" location shown in Figure 2, to illustrate the transportation and urban design elements specified in Table 1.

Segment Typology 2 - Modest Growth

Growth focused at nodes and modest growth along the length of the corridor segment

This segment typology anticipates moderate-to-high density, mixed-use development within the nodes along the corridor segment, and low-to-moderate (gentle), predominantly residential density between the nodes. This typology includes the development of a grid of streets along the full extent of the corridor segment and frequently spaced protected crossings, consistent with the Complete Streets Design Guide (CSDG).



Figure 4: Illustrated view of segment typology 2 - modest growth along the length of the corridor segment.

Segment Typology 2 - Modest Growth



Figure 5: Model view of segment typology 2 - modest growth along the length of the corridor segment.

	TRANSPORT	ATION		URBAN DESIGN		
Transportation Elements Along the Main Growth Corridor				Urban Design Elements Facing the Growth Corridor		
A	Street Classification	New: Growth Corridor Blvd	J	Intensity of Development	Moderate to High	
В	General Purpose Lanes	2-4		Building Heights	4-7 Stories	
С	High Quality Transit (Interim)	High Quality Transit (Interim) Curb Lane Transitway Urban Design Elements Paralleling the Growth Corrigonal Correction Structure Stru				
D	High Quality Transit (Permanent)	Two-Way Median Transitway	L	Intensity of Development	Low to Moderate	
E	Walking & Bicycling	Separated Bike Lanes & Sidewalks	М	Building Heights	2-4 Stories	
F	Protected Crossings: CSDG Spacing Targets	400 ft		Design Excellence Cr	iteria*	
G	Grid of Streets: CSDG Spacing Targets	400 ft	* Street Oriented Development, Active Ground Floor Uses, Undergrounding of Utilities, At			
Н	Slower Speeds: CSDG Spacing Targets	25		nd Architecture Meeting Design Excellence		
	Curb Cuts	Relocated to Side Street	Criteria all required			

Table 2: Transportation and urban design elements of segment typology 2.



Figure 6: Section of segment typology 2, taken at the "B" location shown in Figure 5, to illustrate the transportation and urban design elements specified in Table 2.

Segment Typology 3 - No Growth

Growth focused at nodes, with limited growth between nodes

This corridor segment typology anticipates high, mixed-use density within centers of activity or nodes along the corridor, but no new development fronting the corridor between the nodes. Rather, this typology anticipates low to-moderate densities and varied uses fronting parallel streets along the corridor between the nodes. In addition, this typology anticipates new development to engage with the corridor at the nodes, either by submerging or elevating the corridor, to reconnect communities on either side of the corridor.



Figure 7: Illustrated view of segment typology 3 - no growth along the length of the corridor segment.



Figure 8: Model view of segment typology 3 - no growth along the length of the corridor segment

	TRANSPORT	ATION		URBAN DES	SIGN	
	Transportation Elements Along the Main Growth Corridor			Urban Design Elements Facing the Growth Corridor		
Α	A Street Classification Varies			Intensity of Development	No Growth	
В	General Purpose Lanes	2-4	K	Building Heights	N/A	
С	High Quality Transit (Interim)	Curb Lane Transitway	Urban Design Elements Paralleling the Growth Corridor			
D	High Quality Transit (Permanent)	Two-Way Median Transitway	L	Intensity of Development	Low	
E	Walking & Bicycling	Sidepath Both Sides of Street	М	Building Heights	2-4 Stories	
F	Protected Crossings: CSDG Spacing Targets	Varies		Design Excellence O	Criteria*	
G	Grid of Streets: CSDG Spacing Targets	Varies		*Undergrounding of Utilities and Attractive Streetscapes		
н	Slower Speeds: CSDG Spacing Targets	35-50	Underground, Structured, or Screened Surface Parking, Street Oriented Development, Underground Utilities, Attractive Streetscapes, and Architecture meeting Design Excellence Criteria Required for E Parallelina the Growth Corridor			
I	Curb Cuts	N/A				

Table 3: Transportation and urban design elements of segment typology 3.



Figure 9: Section of segment typology 3, taken at the "C" location shown in Figure 8, to illustrate the transportation and urban design elements specified in Table 3.

Summary of Segment Typology Characteristics - Transportation



Transportation Elements Along the Main Growth Corridor

Street Classification	New: Growth Corridor Boulevard	Varies
General Purpose Lanes	2 - 4	
High-Quality Transit (Interim)	Curb Lane Transitway	
High-Quality Transit (Permanent)	Two-Way Median Transitway	
Walking & Bicycling	Separated Bike Lanes & Sidewalks	Sidepath Both Sides of Street
Protected Crossings: CSDG spacing targets	400 Feet	Varies
Grid of Streets: CSDG spacing targets	400 Feet	Varies
Slower Speeds: CSDG targets	25	35-50
Curb Cuts	Relocated to Side Street	N/A

Transportation Elements Along Streets Paralleling the Growth Corridor

Growin Corndor			
Street Classification	Neighborhood Street		Varies
General Purpose Lanes			
Walking & Bicycling			
Protected Crossings: CSDG spacing targets	400 Feet	600 Feet	Varies
Grid of Streets: CSDG spacing targets	400 Feet	600 Feet	Varies
Slower Speeds: CSDG targets		20	
Curb Cuts		Accomodated	

Summary of Segment Typology Characteristics - Urban Design

Architecture meeting Design Excellence Criteria

URBAN DESIGN			
Characteristics	Segment Typology 1	Segment Typology 2	Segment Typology 3
Urban Design Elements Facing the Growth Corridor			
Intensity of Development	High	Moderate to High	No Growth
Building Heights	7+ Stories	4-7 Stories	N/A
Parking	Underground or Structured	Underground, Structured, Screened Surface	N/A
Street oriented development		Required	N/A
Active ground floor uses	Required	Required	N/A
Undergrounding of utilities		Required	Preferred
Attractive Streetscapes		Required	Preferred
Architecture meeting Design Excellence Criteria		Required	N/A
Urban Design Elements Paralleling the Growth Corridor			
Intensity of Development	Moderate to High	Low to Moderate	Low Growth
Building Heights	4-7 Stories	2-4 Stories	2-4 Stories
Parking	Underground or Structured	Underground or Structured	Underground, Structured, Screened
Street oriented development		Required	
Active ground floor uses	Required	Required	N/A
Undergrounding of utilities		Required	
Attractive Streetscapes		Required	

Required



Chapter 2: Center Types



Center to Segment - Transition Example

Growth corridors travel through centers at all scales. Subsequent corridor plans must consider how corridor segment typologies will transition to and from existing and planned centers.



Figure 10: Example of center to segment transition along the growth corridor; perspective and sectional view.

Large Center

Large centers are envisioned as the highest intensity areas generally characterized by significant residential and/or commercial density either existing or planned and are typically close to high quality transit. They include the county's existing and future employment centers and most of the Metrorail stations which provide an opportunity for significant redevelopment.



Figure 11: Illustrated view of high intensity, mixed-use large center.

Medium Center

Medium centers are less intense and cover a smaller geography than large centers. The medium centers could include significant clusters of existing or planned residential density, as well as clusters of commercial density, including large shopping centers and office campuses. Medium centers are likely to be close to transit.



Figure 12: Illustrated view of medium center.

Small Center

Small centers are generally characterized by low- to medium-density residential neighborhoods, with clusters of commercial activity, including shopping centers and neighborhood-serving retail.



Figure 13: Illustrated view of low-to-medium density small center.

Villages and Neighborhood Centers

Villages and neighborhood centers are the lowest intensity centers containing a small number of neighborhood-serving uses and located in rural areas and low-density residential neighborhoods.



Figure 14: Illustrated view of low density village or neighborhood center.

Summary of Center Characteristics - Transportation



Transportation Elements Along the Main Growth Corridor

TRANSPORTATION

Characteristics

-					
Street Classification	Downtown Boulevard	Downtown Blvd. or Town Center Blvd.	Town Center Boulevard	Area Connector	
General Purpose Lanes		2 - 4			
High-Quality Transit (Interim)		Curb Lane Transitway		N/A	
High-Quality Transit (Permanent)		Two-Way Median Transitway		N/A	
Walking & Bicycling		Separated Bike Lanes & Sidewalks			
Protected Crossings: CSDG spacing targets	400 Feet		600 Feet		
Grid of Streets: CSDG spacing targets	400 Feet		600 Feet		
Slower Speeds: CSDG targets	25	25	25	25	
Curb Cuts					

Transportation Elements Along Streets Paralleling the Growth Corridor

Growth Corridor				
Street Classification	Downtown Street	Downtown Street or Town Center Street	Town Center Street	
General Purpose Lanes			2	
Walking & Bicycling		Seperated Bike Lanes / Shared Stree	ts	Local Streets
Protected Crossings: CSDG spacing targets	400 Feet		600 Feet	
Grid of Streets: CSDG spacing targets	400 Feet		600 Feet	
Slower Speeds: CSDG targets	20	20-25	25	20
Curb Cuts		Ассо	modated	

Summary of Center Characteristics - Urban Design



URBAN DESIGN				
Characteristics	Large Center	Medium Center	Small Center	Village / Neighborhood Center
Urban Design Elements Facing the Growth Corridor				
Intensity of Development	High	Moderate to High	Low to Moderate	Low
Building Heights	7+ Stories	4-7 Stories	2-4 Stories	House-Scale
Parking	Underground or Structured	Underground, Structu	red, Screened Surface	Screened Surface
Street oriented development			Required	
Active ground floor uses			Required	
Undergrounding of utilities			Required	
Attractive Streetscapes			Required	
Architecture meeting Design Excellence Criteria			Required	

Urban Design Elements Paralleling the Growth Corridor

Intensity of Development	High	Moderate to High	Low to Moderate	Low
Building Heights	7+ Stories	4-7 Stories	2-4 Stories	House-Scale
Parking	Underground or Structured	Underground, Structu	red, Screened Surface	Screened Surface
Street oriented development			Required	
Active ground floor uses			Required	
Undergrounding of utilities			Required	
Attractive Streetscapes			Required	
Architecture meeting Design Excellence Criteria			Required	



Baseline Assumptions for all Typologies

All corridor plan typologies assume transit operating in exclusive transitways, and safe, comfortable, and convenient walking and bicycling. Additionally, all corridor plan typologies incorporate resilience and climate change adaptation, including responses to extreme heat, storms, and flooding, via utility hardening, stormwater management, transportation redundancy, and the provision of shade. All corridor plans shall embody design excellence as a central feature irrespective of the intensity of development and employ a focus on urban form and flexibility of uses as guiding criteria for recommendations.

Montgomery Planning

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