

Thrive 2050 written testimony

Hello County Council Members,

My name is Steven Kraft and I am a resident of Montgomery County, in the Gaithersburg zip code. I have been a Montgomery County resident for over 20 years. My family moved here when I was in middle school, graduating from Tilden and then attending Walter Johnson, and then Montgomery College. I completed my BA at Towson University, then moved back to the county where I have lived and worked ever since. I am writing to you on behalf of myself in support of the Thrive 2050 plan. In particular, I support Thrive's plan to make the county more affordable and more inclusive by building more housing, focusing on walkable communities, and expanding methods of mass transit.

Montgomery County is expected to see a huge influx of people in the coming years. Already, housing prices in our county are unaffordable. If we are going to continue to grow as a county, and be inclusive, fight inequality, and provide jobs, we must follow through on Thrive's vision for walkable, mixed-income communities. In addition, our County is committed to fighting climate change and housing and transportation are enormous sources of CO2. Finally, the county also has a "Vision Zero" campaign to reduce traffic deaths, but the only true way to reduce traffic deaths is to reduce traffic. And the best way to do that is to provide people with walkable, and mass transit options.

In conclusion, I support the vision of Thrive 2050. I support building more housing, and housing options in Montgomery County, building walkable communities, expanding mass transit (including rail and Bus Rapid Transit), and being a welcoming county for ALL. The county has ambitious goals to combat climate change, reduce vehicle deaths, and grow. The only way to meet all those goals together, is by implementing Thrive 2050.

Thank you for your time,

Steven