

Written Testimony on Thrive 2050

Salim Furth

Dear County Councilmembers,

Thank you for giving citizens the opportunity to comment in writing on Thrive 2050. I am writing in my capacity as a resident and urban economist; my comments do not necessarily reflect the view of my employer.

I applaud the County for drafting a plan that emphasizes growth, change, and inclusion.

In three areas, I would ask the County to go further.

- 1) Thrive 2050 should emphasize the importance of private property rights in ensuring fairness and allowing growth and change across all of our neighborhoods. Just as strong individual procedural protections have proven to be the best guarantee of civil rights for oppressed groups, private property rights prevent hostile neighbors from using the mechanics of government to exclude.
- 2) Thrive 2050 should plan to eliminate all parking minimums in the County. Stronger property rights? Check. Serious climate policy? Check. Decreasing runoff, lowering costs, maintaining tree canopy, and reducing burdens on county staff? Check, check, check, check.
- 3) Include the Long Branch/Takoma-Langley area as a growth center. Although it is bisected by the county line, it is a busy and important area of retail and employment, and will likely grow with Purple Line access.

Thank you for continuing to address the many important challenges that our county faces.

Respectfully,

Salim Furth