

Thrive 2050 testimony
November 30, 2021 County Council Public Hearing
Paul Goldman

Good evening. My name is Paul Goldman. I live in the Woodside Park neighborhood of Silver Spring. On the Metrorail map, that is on the $\frac{3}{4}$ mile circle from the Silver Spring station.

The availability of rail and bus transit, and the shops and amenities of downtown Silver Spring led my wife and I to choose Woodside Park as our place of residence. More people need to have the opportunity to live near shops, amenities and transit. That is why I urge the County Council to adopt the proposed Thrive 2050 general plan.

I am excited at the prospect of Montgomery County adopting a general plan that seeks to replace a 1950s “Leave it to Beaver” era approach to land use with a 21st century “complete communities, 15-minute living” approach.

Thrive 2050 recognizes that status quo policies have produce inadequate land use and transportation outcomes and poor economic results. Weak household income and job growth combined with an aging population shrinks the County’s tax base and limits its capacity to provide high quality services.

If we want to improve the County’s potential for economic growth and reduce the severe impacts of global warming, we need to follow the path identified in Thrive 2050 by emphasizing communities that offer additional housing that is close to transit, shopping and professional services and minimizes long commutes by single passenger automobile.

This will enable county government to continue to provide the high quality and quantity of public services that residents have a right to expect.