

M E M O R A N D U M

October 14, 2020

TO: Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee

FROM: Pamela Dunn, Senior Legislative Analyst

SUBJECT: Public Hearing Draft of the General Plan – Thrive Montgomery 2050

PURPOSE: Briefing on the Public Hearing Draft of the General Plan approved by the Planning Board

Those expected for this worksession:

Casey Anderson, Chair, Planning Board
Gwen Wright, Director, Planning Department
Tanya Stern, Deputy Director, Planning Department
Khalid Afzal, Special Projects Manager, Planning Department
Caroline McCarthy, Chief, Research & Special Projects, Planning Department

Staff from the Montgomery County Planning Department will brief the PHED Committee on the recently-approved public hearing draft of the General Plan – Thrive Montgomery 2050. The Committee has received two prior briefings on the process of the General Plan update. This briefing will focus on notable recommendations in the public hearing draft to receive feedback from the Committee. A copy of the Public Hearing Draft can be found at:

<https://montgomeryplanning.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Public-Hearing-Draft-Plan-Thrive-Montgomery-2050-final-10-5.pdf>

Below are some of the proposed recommendations to be covered by Planning staff.

- Allow small retail/service uses in single-family neighborhoods (part of complete communities, improve walkability, connectedness, reduce auto travel)

- Allow diverse housing types in single-family neighborhoods (to create equity, to allow options for retirees to stay in the neighborhood, to create more diverse communities)
- Adopt compact development pattern for all new growth and infill development
- Need to rethink planning for public facilities (more, smaller facilities spread out around the County to be more walkable instead of fewer, larger facilities)
- Direct growth to transit corridors—single-family areas along transit corridors will experience change
- Need to think differently about transportation—move away from auto travel as the predominant mode, prioritize pedestrians and bicycles over cars
- New and innovative financial tools to increase housing production
- New and innovative financial tools to achieve sustainability and address climate change
- Achieve diversity, equity at the neighborhood level

The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the Public Hearing Draft of the General Plan update at their virtual meeting on Thursday, November 19, with the public record open until December 10, 2020.