

Resolution
Of the Montgomery County Civic Federation
On Thrive 2050 Draft Plan

Whereas, the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Inc. has taken a strong interest in the development of the new draft long-range planning document for Montgomery County, Thrive 2050, (the Draft Plan) currently before the Montgomery County Council for its consideration; and

Whereas, members of the Civic Federation have expressed repeated concern about the inadequate public outreach and engagement process of both the Montgomery County Planning Board and the Montgomery County Council regarding the Draft Plan during a period of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States; and

Whereas, the Civic Federation has worked closely with policy colleagues, such as the Thrive 2050 Neighborhood Coalition and the Stormwater Partners Network on issues related to planning and land use and environmental sustainability and resiliency; and

Whereas, the Civic Federation concurs broadly with the recommendations developed by the Neighborhood Coalition and the Stormwater Partners Network in their communications with the Montgomery County Council; and

Whereas, the Civic Federation, takes note of the important concerns raised by the Montgomery County Executive in his June 10, 2021 Memorandum to the Montgomery County Council President concerning serious omissions in the Draft Plan and recommendations to improve the planning document; and concurs broadly with his concerns about the Draft Plan; and

Whereas, the Civic Federation believes that critical issues of economic development, environmental sustainability, stormwater management, housing production and affordability, adequate public facilities and infrastructure, equity, and community ownership are of the utmost importance to the development of the dynamic, inclusive, productive community that we wish to support, and merit much more discussion and elaboration in the Draft Plan; and

Whereas, the Civic Federation notes, with concern, widespread confusion among Montgomery County residents about the simultaneous government discussions surrounding the Draft Plan, multiple proposed countywide Zoning Text Amendments, and the Planning Board's work on attainable housing policy;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIVIC FEDERATION

Expresses its view that the Thrive 2050 Draft Plan needs very significant modification in many areas before it is approved by the Montgomery County Council; and further

That the Montgomery County Civic Federation calls upon the Montgomery County Council to work diligently to add new substantive standalone chapters on job-creating economic development, environmental sustainability, and infrastructure development and financing to the Draft Plan; and further

Expresses its view that there must be significant improvement in the approach of the Planning Board and the County Council to community engagement and discussion on this important document; and further

Calls upon the Montgomery County Council to hold additional public hearings, sufficient to allow all persons interested to participate, on the draft Thrive 2050 document currently before the County Council, with the normal time limits for public testimony; and

Calls upon the Planning Board and County Council to meaningfully increase its outreach to all County community organizations, including neighborhood associations and homeowners associations, to affirmatively provide detailed information about Thrive 2050 and its implementation; and

Calls upon all Montgomery County civic associations and homeowner associations to increase their outreach to their members about Thrive 2050 and its related issues

Adopted on this 13th day of September 2021

Karen Cordry, Secretary