



June 17, 2021

The Honorable Tom Hucker
Council President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Council President Hucker:

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) supports the creation of a strategic vision for growth in Montgomery County through the Thrive Montgomery 2050 plan. The plan will play an integral role mapping growth and development for the next 30 years. In particular, MCCC applauds the plan's three outcome focus areas: (1) economic health; (2) equitable communities; and (3) environmental resilience.

Montgomery County has tremendous economic opportunity thanks to its diversity of employers, world-class innovation, highly-skilled workforce, and access to leading educational institutions. What it lacks is a modern plan for growth that addresses the past and embraces the future. Thrive Montgomery 2050 fills this gap and understands its important role in creating responsible economic advancement for years to come.

MCCC contends that making Montgomery County a more attractive and attainable place to live should be a top priority of any plan. That is why MCCC is pleased that creating more housing choices, especially for workers, is an important focus of the plan. The current and next generation of talent is looking for middle income housing and livable communities where they can grow and succeed. This issue is paramount to future economic expansion and must urgently be addressed.

Regarding transportation, there are specific recommendations that are concerning. MCCC believes that the plan misunderstands the marketplace by envisioning a world largely devoid of roads and cars and sets unrealistic goals in response. While MCCC concurs that mixed transportation and mobility options should be part of any plan, there are some specific recommendations that hold unrealistic assumptions about future transportation needs that must be reconsidered:

- Stop planning or constructing new highways or major road widenings for cars.
- Convert existing general purpose traffic lanes to dedicated transit lanes.
- Convert existing traffic lanes and on-street parking to create space for walkways, bikeways, and street buffers with landscaping and street trees.

As always, we stand ready to provide assistance to you during your deliberations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Godwin".

Georgette "Gigi" Godwin
President & CEO
Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

cc: Members, Montgomery County Council