



THRIVE

MONTGOMERY 2050

Let's Plan Our Future. Together.

www.thrivemontgomery.com

Montgomery Planning

12/17/2020

Work Session 1

Thrive Montgomery 2050 Public Hearing Draft Plan



Today's Presentation

- Summary of public comments
- Major themes of the public testimony
- Overall organization of the Plan document
Proposed outline of the revised draft
- Schedule of proposed work sessions

Staff seeks approval of:

1. The proposed outline of the reorganized draft; and
2. The tentative schedule of Planning Board work sessions.

Summary of Public Comments

85 speakers during the virtual public hearing on November 19, 2020.

More than 70 email/letters between October 1, 2020 and December 10, 2020. (Attachment 3). Additional correspondence received after December 10.

Attachment 2 is a summary table of all written and verbal public comments with staff responses to the general comments about the overall organization of the report and other general comments.

The transcript of the public hearing can be accessed [here](#) or at www.thrivemontgomery.com

Major Themes of Public Comments

- **Housing Affordability**
- **Public Transit**
- **Complete Communities**
- **Sustainability**
- **Economy**
- **Equity**
- **The evolution of the Wedges & Corridors Concept**

Correction on Page 5 of the Staff Memorandum

Current Text:

Additionally, the Planning Department and Planning Board Chair received a request from several organizations, transmitted through the County Executive Office, to extend the public comment period for Thrive Montgomery 2050 in order to link this review period with the release of the county's draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) on December 15th.

Corrected text:

*“Additionally, the Planning Department and Planning Board Chair received a request from **the Office of the County Executive and** several organizations, ~~transmitted through the County Executive Office,~~ to extend the public comment period for Thrive Montgomery 2050 in order to link this review period with the release of the county's draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) on December **14th**~~15th~~.”*

Requests to Extend the “Close of Public Hearing Record”

Staff response:

The “official” close of record for public hearing testimony on Thrive Montgomery 2050 will not be extended beyond December 10, 2020, but the close of record does not prevent members of the public from submitting comments for the Planning Board’s review. The Planning Board will continue to accept public comments until the third week of February 2021 – or whenever the Board work sessions conclude – and will consider them with all comments received previously during work sessions on the draft Plan.

Coordination with the Montgomery County Climate Action Plan

Planning staff participated in County's process to develop the **Climate Action Plan** to meet the goal of 100 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2035

- **Quarterly Inter-agency Climate Leadership Team** (*started Sept. 2019*)
 - Tanya Stern, Deputy Director
- **Technical Workgroups** (*met monthly Summer-Fall 2019 & developed draft recommendations; 2020: review of draft actions*)
 - 1) **Buildings Technical Workgroup**: Tina Schneider, Downcounty Planning
 - 2) **Transportation Technical Workgroup**: Lauren Pepe, Countywide Planning & Policy
 - 3) **Clean Energy Technical Workgroup**: Steve Findley, Midcounty Planning
 - 4) **Climate Adaptation and Sequestration Workgroup**: Katherine Nelson, Upcounty Planning

Reorganization of the Draft Plan

Process & Tasks

Purpose of Revision

- Create a strong argument for why the plan is needed, clearly connected to three key objectives:
 1. *Economic performance and competitiveness*
 2. *Racial and social equity and inclusion*
 3. *Environmental resilience and sustainability*
- Create a clear, three-part organization to the document
- Organize recommendations by key themes (6) that support the central argument.
- Make sure ideas flow from high level to details.

Proposed Outline for a Revised Draft

Section 1: WHY we need a new comprehensive plan for the county

The new plan must achieve three overarching objectives:

- 1. Economic performance and competitiveness**
- 2. Racial and social equity and inclusion**
- 3. Environmental resilience and sustainability**

Section 3: HOW the ideas in this Plan can be implemented.

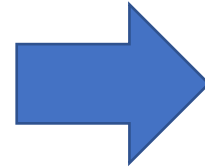
Section 2: WHAT this plan proposes

- **Theme #1:** Compact growth: corridor-focused development
- **Theme #2:** Complete communities: mix of uses and forms
- **Theme #3:** Transportation and communication networks: connecting people, places and ideas
- **Theme #4:** Affordable and attainable housing: more of everything
- **Theme #5:** Design, arts and culture: adding value and building community
- **Theme #6:** Parks and recreation for an increasingly urban and diverse community: active and social

Side by Side: Key Outcomes

Public Hearing Draft

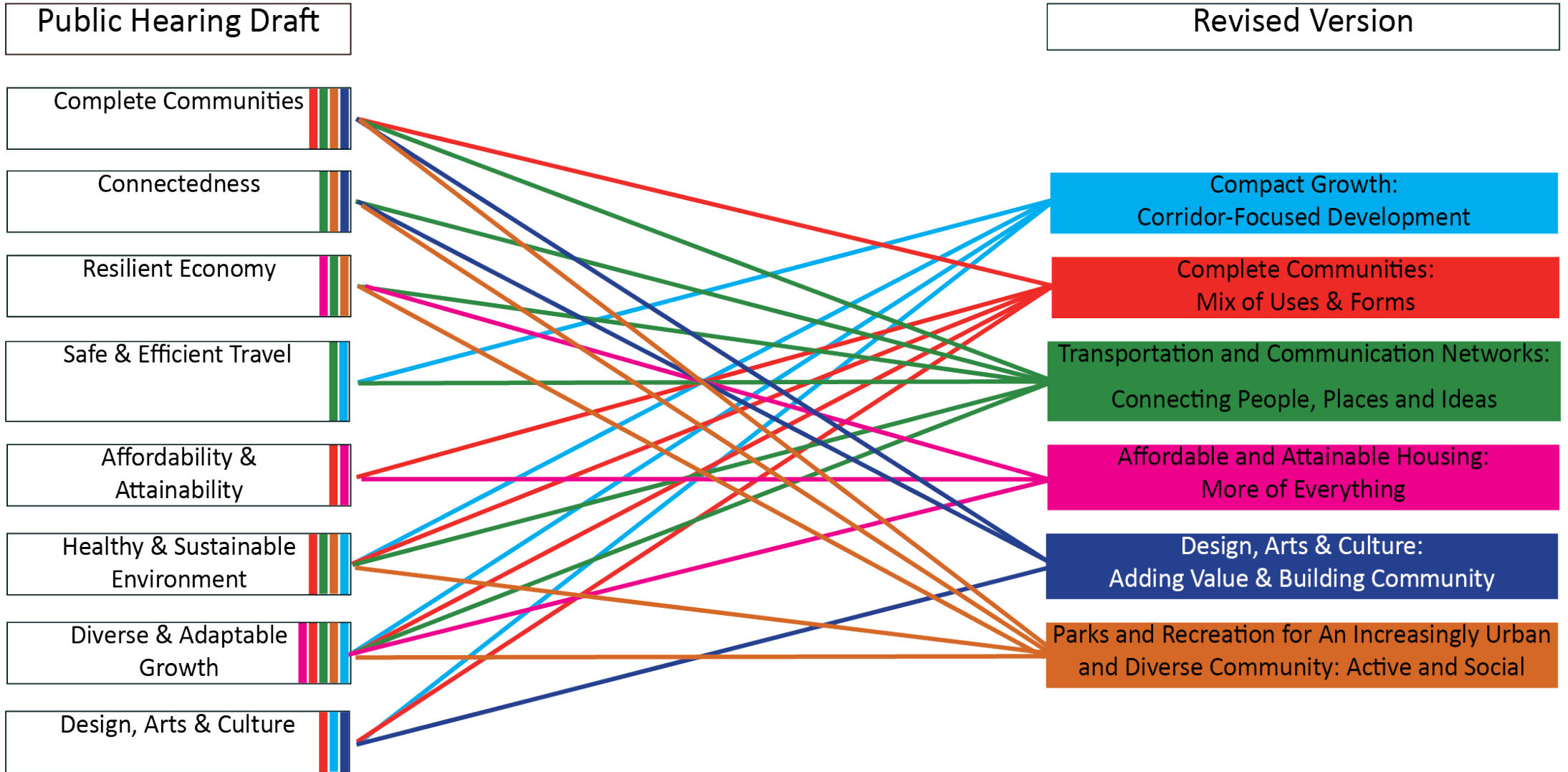
- Economic Health
- Environmental Health
- Equity



Revised Version

- Economic performance & competitiveness
- Racial & Social Equity & Inclusion
- Environmental resilience & sustainability
 - Elevating design and role of arts and culture
 - Public health and active lifestyles
 - Better access to amenities for high quality of life

Side by Side: Chapters



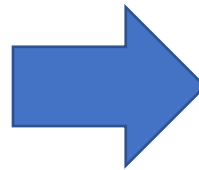
Example of Reorganization of Plan Recommendations

Goal 4.7: Convert auto-centric transportation corridors into safe, people-centric multimodal streets with rail and BRT. Most travel to, from and within transportation corridors will occur via walking, bicycling, and transit.

Policy 4.7.1: Prioritize implementing safe and connected low-stress bicycle and pedestrian networks in rail and BRT corridors over projects that increase traffic capacity.

Public Hearing Draft

Chapter 4: Safe and Efficient Travel



Planning Board Draft

**Theme #1: Compact growth:
corridor-focused development**

Side by Side: Section 1

Public Hearing Draft

PREFACE

INTRODUCTION

What is Thrive Montgomery 2050

Why Update the General Plan

PLANNING CONTEXT

Trends and Challenges

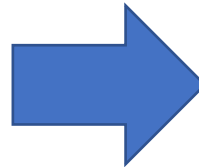
Planning for an Equitable and Just Future

A PLAN TO THRIVE

Rationale and Context

Three Overarching Outcomes

Major Themes



Revised Version

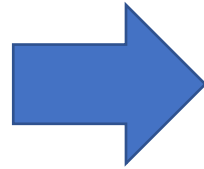
- **WHY we need a new comprehensive plan for the county?**
- **Three overarching objectives**
 - Economic performance & competitiveness
 - Racial & Social Equity & Inclusion
 - Environmental resilience & sustainability
- **Other important goals:**
 - Elevating design and role of arts and culture
 - Public health and active lifestyles
 - Better access to amenities for high quality of life

Side by Side: Section 2

Public Hearing Draft

Relevant Goals & Policies from:

- Design, Arts & Culture
- Healthy & Sustainable Environment
- Diverse & Adaptable Growth
- Safe & Efficient Travel



Revised Version Theme #1:

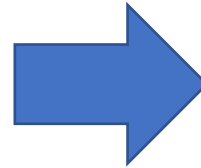
Compact Growth: Corridor-Focused Development

Side by Side: Section 2

Public Hearing Draft

Relevant Goals & Policies from:

- **Complete Communities**
- **Design, Arts & Culture**
- **Diverse & Adaptable Growth**
- **Healthy & Sustainable Environment**
- **Affordability & Attainability**



Revised Version Theme #2:

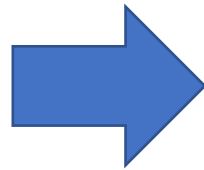
Complete Communities: Mix of Uses and Forms

Side by Side: Section 2

Public Hearing Draft

Relevant Goals & Policies from:

- **Safe & Efficient Travel**
- **Connectedness**
- **Resilient Economy**
- **Diverse & Adaptable Growth**
- **Complete Communities**
- **Healthy & Sustainable Environment**



Revised Version Theme #3:

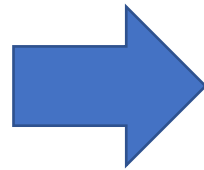
**Transportation and
Communication Networks:
Connecting People, Places and
Ideas**

Side by Side: Section 2

Public Hearing Draft

Relevant Goals & Policies from:

- **Affordability & Attainability**
- **Resilient Economy**
- **Diverse & Adaptable Growth**



Revised Version Theme #4:

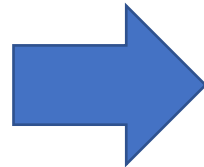
**Affordable and Attainable
Housing: More of Everything**

Side by Side: Section 2

Public Hearing Draft

Relevant Goals & Policies from:

- **Design, Arts & Culture**
- **Connectedness**
- **Complete Communities**



Revised Version Theme #5:

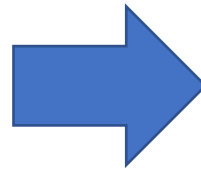
Design, Arts and Culture: Adding Value and Building Community

Side by Side: Section 2

Public Hearing Draft

Relevant Goals & Policies from:

- **Healthy & Sustainable Environment**
- **Connectedness**
- **Resilient Economy**
- **Diverse & Adaptable Growth**
- **Complete Communities**



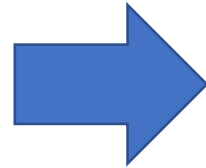
Revised Version Theme #6:

Parks and Recreation for An Increasingly Urban and Diverse Community: Active and Social

Side by Side: Section 3

Public Hearing Draft

- **Implementation**



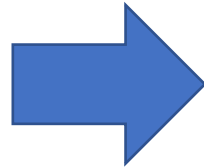
Revised Version

- **Implementation**

Side by Side: Action Plan Appendix

Public Hearing Draft

- Actions within chapters



Revised Version

- **Action Plan Appendix***
*(*not a formal part of the plan)*

Proposed Schedule of Future Work Sessions

Thursday, 1/7/21:	2 nd work session
Thursday, 1/14/21:	3 rd work session
Wednesday, 1/20/21:	4th work session
Thursday, 1/21/21:	5 th work session
Monday, 1/25/21:	6th work session
Thursday, 1/28/21:	7 th work session
Monday, 2/1/21:	8th work session
Thursday, 2/4/21:	9 th work session
Thursday, 2/11/21:	10 th and final work session
Thursday, 2/25/21:	Final review of all revised recommendations
Thursday, 4/8/21:	Approve the Planning Board Draft Plan for transmittal to the CE and CC