

# Montgomery Planning

## CLIMATE ASSESSMENT FOR 23-07, BETHESDA OVERLAY ZONE - PARK IMPROVEMENT PAYMENTS AND DOWNTOWN SILVER SPRING (DDS) OVERLAY ZONE - CIVIC IMPROVEMENT FUNDS

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### PURPOSE OF CLIMATE ASSESSMENTS

The purpose of the Climate Assessments is to evaluate the anticipated impact of master plans and zoning text amendments (ZTAs) on the county's contribution to addressing climate change. These assessments will provide the County Council with a better understanding of the potential climate impacts and implications of proposed master plans and ZTAs, at the county level. The scope of the Climate Assessments is limited to addressing climate change, specifically the effect of land use recommendations in master plans and ZTAs on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and sequestration, and how actions proposed by master plans and ZTAs could improve the county's adaptive capacity to climate change and increase community resilience.

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### SUMMARY

The zoning text amendment (ZTA) 23-07 recommends modifications to the method the biennial adjustments are calculated and set an inflation limit in the Bethesda Overlay Zone's Park Improvement Payment and the Downtown Silver Spring Overlay Zone's Civic Improvement Fund.

### CLIMATE-RELATED VARIABLES

GHG Emissions and Sequestration Checklist of Variables.

- None.

Community Resilience and Adaptive Capacity Impact Variables.

- None.

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### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF ZTA 23-06

Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 23-07, Bethesda (B) Overlay Zone – Park Improvement Payments (PIP) and Downtown Silver Spring (DSS) Overlay Zone Civic Improvement Funds (CIF), was introduced by Council President Glass at the request of the Planning Board on October 24, 2023. The need for this ZTA arose during the Planning Board's review of Bill 25-23, at its meeting on June 8, 2023. The issue corrected by Bill 25-23 and that is now proposed for correction with ZTA 23-07 is the methodology used to calculate the biennial adjustments made to impact taxes, and the PIF and CIF because of inflation. The old methodology calculated inflation as an average rate of change over a two-year period, while the new methodology looks at a cumulative change in inflation.

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## ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

### GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS, CARBON SEQUESTRATION, AND DRAWDOWN

Montgomery Planning anticipates ZTA 23-07 will result no greenhouse gas increases or decreases. Nor will the ZTA result in positive or negative carbon sequestration and drawdown rates. The ZTA is an adjustment in the rate of calculation to the impact tax.

### COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND ADAPTIVE CAPACITY

Montgomery Planning anticipates ZTA 23-07 will have no impact and/or changes to community resilience and adaptive capacity.

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## RELATIONSHIP TO GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION AND SEQUESTRATION ACTIONS CONTAINED IN THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CAP)

ZTA 23-07 will not have any positive or negative impacts to greenhouse gas or carbon sequestration thereby it will not impact the goals within the County's Climate Action Plan.

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## RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS

Planning staff does not have any recommended climate-related amendments to ZTA 23-07 because it will have no impact on the county's climate and/or sequestration rates.

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## SOURCES OF INFORMATION, ASSUMPTIONS, AND METHODOLOGIES USED

The climate assessment for ZTA 23-06 was prepared using the methodology (Tables 1, 2, and 8, in particular) for ZTAs contained within the [\*Climate Assessment Recommendations for Master Plans and Zoning Text Amendments in Montgomery County, December 1, 2022\*](#).