



Darnestown Civic Association

Darnestown Community Input Regarding the Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan

January 16, 2020

On behalf of the Darnestown community, the Darnestown Civic Association (DCA) wants to commend the Planning Board for developing an innovative Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan where we have a shared vision that allows our community to keep what we love while taking the actions needed to thrive over the next 30+ years. We understand, per the Plan, the result of Thrive Montgomery 2050 will be a living and breathing plan that guides decision making and helps secure resources to ensure Montgomery County is a place where everyone can be successful, have opportunities and enjoy a high quality of life in a beautiful and resilient environment.

The DCA is dedicated to promote and protect what our residents love about Darnestown. We understand the Planning Board shares our same values of growing in a way that will retain and enhance what we cherish as a rural community while addressing challenges such as housing affordability, environmental degradation, traffic congestion, and social injustice. We also understand that this Plan will have long-term impacts on the development growth and transportation infrastructure in and around Darnestown.

We value and appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with the Planning Department and provide our evaluation of and input to the Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan for incorporation into an Issues Report that will be published and presented to the Planning Board. We agree with many of the issues as outlined in the report. Nevertheless, it does appear that much of the focus of the Plan is relative to urban areas of the County. While urban areas are important for consideration, we are concerned and want to verify that the Board is also considering and respects rural areas of the County including Darnestown. Darnestown values our rural residential culture, our Village, our abundant open space and low density, and our position as a transition area adjoining the Agricultural Reserve. We respectfully recommend the Board embrace our rural culture, as it is core to the character of our community, and explicitly adopt a rural residential approach to areas of the County including Darnestown. We hope to see these values in the Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan.

We want to thank you for continuing to include our community in the Plan's ongoing collaborative development and look forward to engaging as an active partner throughout this process.

Sincerely,

Scott H. Mostrom
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