

Thanks to the Mayor and to all of the Council members for organizing the webinar a few weeks ago. It was very enlightening - and not in a good way.

A couple of the things I took away from the discussion:

1) it is the explicit goal of Thrive 2050 to encourage large scale development up to one block deep along major thoroughfares near metros - picture tall buildings one block deep all the way up Wisconsin between Friendship Heights and Bethesda and also out River

2) the Thrive plan says nothing about schools. It is a high level planning document and assumes that lower level documents will address schools, but

3) the ZTAs, were they to pass, could result in of right development and densification that could impact schools long before the lower level planning documents are ever created

4) the housing advocates who participated in the event were very clear that nothing about Thrive or the ZTAs would have any effect on affordable housing in Somerset, just, potentially, “attainable housing” as duplexes, triplexes, and quads spring up in town.

To me, the risks to Somerset from Thrive 2050 and the ZTA seem clear. The benefits seem nonexistent.

I urge residents, the Mayor, and the Council to do anything possible to limit the negative impacts of these policies on Somerset.

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