

11/14/2021

Members of the Council, Mayor Slavin, and Manager Trollinger:

Montgomery Thrive 2050 is a draft plan by the Planning Department, now before the County Council. As you know, it is a visionary plan, striving towards where the county should be in 29 years. I appreciate that you support the basic tenets of the plan: economic competitiveness, racial and social equity, and environmental sustainability.

This a a plan for our large county with a population over 1 million, with many demographic changes over the years. I think the response of Somerset should be to the plan in general, how to we envision the county developing over the next 30 years. The letter before the Council is too centered on Somerset. The entire county is facing storm water plus many others problems. My concerns are how do we handle our transportation system with so many cars, how does equity for all be achieved, how do we contribute to saving our planet, and how is housing for all achieved.

Montgomery Thrive 2050 is working to achieve these issues. This is a visionary plan; in the future more specific plans will be developed. Somerset should write the Council supporting Thrive 2050, not to delay it for years to come. I strongly oppose the studies mentioned in the letter. In the future, when there is a plan that specifically involves Somerset, we can answer with our hopes and concerns.

Although the Attainable Housing Initiative is not part of Thrive 2050, I know many residents in town who support duplexes, triplexes and quadplexes in Somerset. We already have condo buildings on River and Dorset in Kenwood, why not a condo building on River? Right now many of our homes are "over housed", a term used in the draft. Wouldn't it be good if older couples could convert their homes to an apartment on the first floor for the couple, upstairs reduced rate apartments with renters to help the couples?

Please support Thrive 2050. We need climate action now!

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