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Thrive Montgomery 2050:

General Plan for the County

Racial Equity and Social Justice Review

WHAT IS THRIVE MONTGOMERY 2050?

Thrive Montgomery 2050 (Thrive 2050) is the new countywide general plan developed by the Montgomery County Planning Department. The plan will guide future growth and development over the 30 years. Thrive 2050 will influence future land use, transportation, social, and economic decisions. **Learn more about this project at bit.ly/Thrive2050Engage.**

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We are conducting an analysis of the themes in Thrive 2050 as they relate to racial equity and social justice. This summer, we are connecting with Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC), as well as people from low-moderate income backgrounds to understand their needs and aspirations related to housing, transportation, urban development, design, and arts & culture in Montgomery County.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

You can participate in the following ways:



Take the Survey

Take the survey and enter a raffle for a chance to win one of the 300+ gift cards (\$10 or \$50). The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Join a Focus Group

A member of our team will contact you if you are selected to participate. **Participants will receive a \$50 gift card. In person focus group will also include food and beverage.**



Check Council's Website

Check out Montgomery Council's Website to learn more about project updates and upcoming events, including the community forum.

Thrive Montgomery 2050:

Un plan general para el condado

Evaluación de Equidad Racial y Justicia Social

¿QUE ES THRIVE 2050?

Thrive Montgomery 2050 es el nuevo plan general para el condado. El plan es un documento que guiara el crecimiento y desarrollo por los proximos 30 anos. Thrive 2050 influyera decisiones en el uso y desarrollo de la tierra, el transporte , y problemas sociales & economicos. **Visite bit.ly/Thrive2050Engage.**

¿QUE ESTAMOS HACIENDO?

Estamos haciendo una evaluación del documento de Thrive 2050 con un enfoque en equidad racial y justicia social. Para completar esta evaluación estamos hablando con personas que se identifican como personas negras, indígenas, o de color, igual que con personas que tienen pocos recursos económicos. Los resultados de la evaluacion informaran el desarrollo de un capitulo nuevo del plan que se enfocará en equidad racial y justicia social en el condado. **Usted puede ayudar al participar en las proximas actividades!**



Complete la Encuesta

Al completar la encuesta en su totalidad usted puede entrar en la rifa para ganar una **de las 300+ tarjetas de regalo (\$10 y \$50).**

Participe en un grupo de discussion

Complete la forma para inscribirse y un miembro de nuestro equipo lo contactará si es seleccionado. **Participantes recibirán una tarjeta de regalo de \$50.**





Thrive Montgomery 2050: General Plan for the County

Racial Equity and Social Justice Review

Thrive Montgomery 2050 (Thrive 2050) is the new countywide general plan developed by the Montgomery County Planning Department. Thrive 2050 is a policy document that will guide future growth and development over the next 30 years. Thrive 2050 will influence future land use, transportation, social, and economic decisions in Montgomery County. Montgomery County Council has contracted with Nspiregreen to work with the County and its residents to evaluate the current Planning, Housing, and Economic Development ("PHED") Committee draft of Thrive Montgomery 2050.

Central to this effort will be conducting a comprehensive analysis of the planning themes in Thrive 2050 as they relate to issues of racial equity and social justice. Our public outreach efforts will seek to connect with Black, Indigenous, other 'People of Color' (BIPOC), and low-moderate income communities to gather input on the current draft of Thrive 2050. The outcome of this work will be to propose recommendations on how to revise the current draft of Thrive 2050 to achieve better outcomes for marginalized populations in the County. Recommendations will be summarized in a new plan chapter on racial equity and social justice.

This project aims to ensure that historically disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups are accurately and carefully represented in the Thrive 2050 plan. Feedback from engagement activities will assess the strengths and weaknesses of the current planning process and develop new recommendations on how to improve Thrive 2050 and center issues of Racial Equity and Social Justice in all of the significant plan areas:



COMPACT GROWTH:
Corridor Focused Development



COMPLETE COMMUNITIES:
Mix of Uses and Forms



HOUSING FOR ALL:
More of Everything



**PARKS & REC FOR AN
INCREASINGLY URBAN &
DIVERSE COMMUNITY:**
Active & Social



DESIGN, ARTS & CULTURE:
Investing & Building Community



**TRANSPORTATION
& COMMUNICATION
NETWORKS:**
Connecting People,
Places, & Ideas

What we will do:

- Identify and conduct targeted outreach to BIPOC and low-moderate income populations
- Engage key stakeholders and representatives of target groups across the County
- Gather input through focus groups, surveys, forums and community conversations
- Recommend changes to Thrive 2050 based on input from BIPOC and low-income residents based on advancing racial equity and social justice
- Draft a new chapter on racial equity and social justice issues (historic and current) for Thrive Montgomery 2050

You can also learn more about Thrive 2050 by visiting our website at <https://bit.ly/Thrive2050Engage> or contact an outreach specialist at Thrive2050@gmail.com

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

PLEASE ADD YOUR VOICE TO THE PROCESS BY
COMPLETING OUR QUESTIONNAIRE:

[HTTPS://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ThriveSurvey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ThriveSurvey)

[SCAN ME]



Participants will
have the chance
to win 1 of 300+
Gift Cards
(\$10 or \$50)



THRIVE
MONTGOMERY 2050
Let's Plan Our Future. Together.

RACIAL EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE //

FOCUS GROUPS

What are we discussing today?

- 01. **Welcome – Project Overview**
- 02. **What is Thrive Montgomery 2050?**
- 03. **What are Complete Communities?**
- 04. **Exploring Thrive's Planning Methodology**
- 05. **Racial Equity & Social Justice**

Ground Rules

01. **Speak openly and honestly. One person speaks at a time.**
02. **Listen carefully and respectfully to each person**
03. **Stay focused on the topic**
04. **Silence your cell phone**

Project Overview

Nspiregreen is conducting a comprehensive analysis of the planning themes in Thrive Montgomery 2050 as they relate to issues of racial equity and social justice.

The goal of our public outreach efforts will seek to:

- Connect with Black, Indigenous, other 'People of Color' (BIPOC), and low-moderate income communities
- Gather input on the current draft of Thrive 2050
- Recommendations will be summarized in a summary report and new plan chapter on racial equity and social justice

What is
Thrive
Montgomery
2050?

What is Thrive Montgomery 2050?

Thrive Montgomery 2050 (Thrive 2050) is the new countywide general plan developed by the Montgomery County Planning Department.

Thrive 2050 is a policy document that will guide future growth and development over the next 30 years. Thrive 2050 will influence future land use, transportation, social, and economic decisions in Montgomery County.



Provides recommendations for land use decisions in the County.



Does not change zoning or other detailed land use regulations



It is flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances, such climate changes, population growth, public health issues, and emerging new technology



Does not abandon old planning, but seeks to modernize it to remain relevant

What is a general plan?

A general plan is a long-range guide for the development of a community; the blueprint to achieving the vision set by residents of a city or county.

This blueprint provides **broad guidance** for land-use decisions as communities face **unpredictable future opportunities** and challenges that influence growth and development such as **disruptions brought about by climate change, public health emergencies, and emerging technologies.**

General Plan
(Thrive
Montgomery 2050)

Functional
Master Plan

Area Master
or Sector Plan

Sketch Plan

Preliminary
Plan

Site Plan



Complete Communities

Complete Communities

Complete communities are places that include the range of land uses, infrastructure, services, and amenities that allow them to meet a wide range of needs for a variety of people. One of the goals is to establish “15-minute living” that allows local residents to live, work, and play in their immediate surroundings. **What makes a complete community?**

Housing

Transportation

Jobs &
Education

Public Health

Design,
Arts, &
Culture

Parks &
Recreation

Discussion Questions

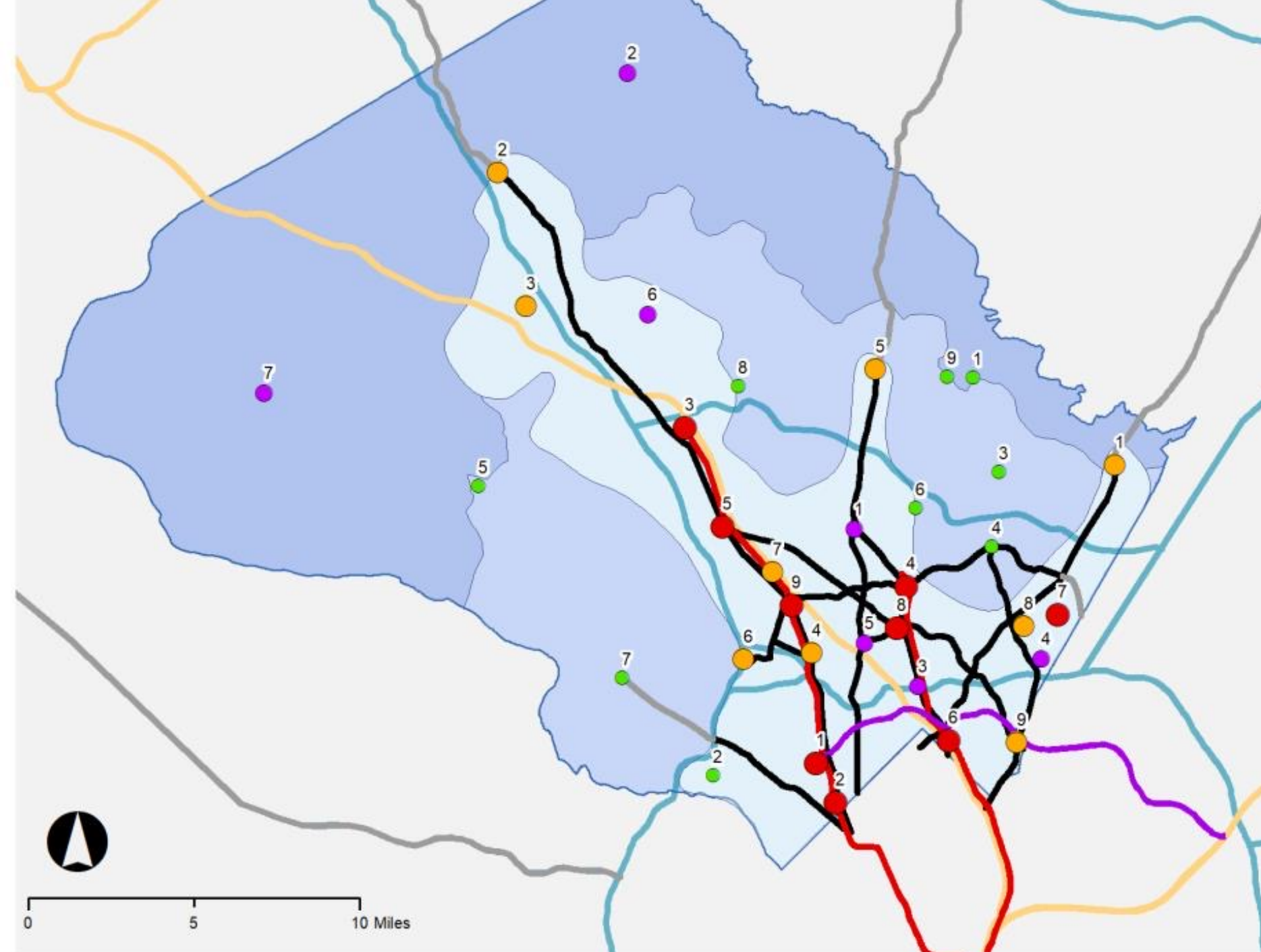
- What does a community need to be considered “complete”?
- Would you consider your community complete? Why or why not?

Compact Growth

Thrive Montgomery 2050 proposes redoubling and refining efforts to concentrate growth in downtowns, town centers, rural villages, and intensively developed centers of activity, or nodes, and a new commitment to promoting growth along major transportation corridors to maximize the efficient use of land and create Complete Communities.

Benefits of compact growth:

- Connects residents to existing and future centers of activity and complete communities.
- Create corridors that have robust transit service in place or planned or are located close to existing concentrations of jobs, services, and infrastructure in ways that lend themselves to create complete communities.



- Large Centers**
 1. Bethesda
 2. Friendship Heights
 3. Shady Grove
 4. Glenmont
 5. Rockville
 6. Silver Spring
 7. VIVA White Oak
 8. Wheaton
 9. White Flint
- Medium Centers**
 1. Burtonsville
 2. Clarksburg
 3. Germantown
 4. Grosvenor/Strathmore
 5. Olney
 6. Rock Spring
 7. Twinbrook
 8. White Oak/FDA
 9. Takoma/Langley
- Smaller Centers**
 1. Aspen Hill
 2. Damascus
 3. Forest Glen
 4. Hillandale
 5. Kensington
 6. Montgomery Village
 7. Poolesville
- Villages and Neighborhood Centers**
 1. Ashton
 2. Cabin John
 3. Cloverly
 4. Colesville
 5. Darnestown
 6. Layhill
 7. Potomac Village
 8. Redland
 9. Sandy Spring

Discussion Questions

- Do you agree that leveraging existing centers and corridors (compact development) is a good strategy for future development?

Housing - Issues

- **85% of land is already developed.**
- **Population is expected to increase by 200,000 over the next 30 years.**
- **33% is restricted to single family housing. New houses are bigger instead of smaller.**
- **High demand and low availability increase housing prices.**
- **Predominantly white people are able to access more expensive neighborhoods with better schools, jobs, and transportation.**

Do you feel that the housing issues outlined in Thrive 2050 are representative of the challenges in your home community?

Discussion Questions

- What are the biggest challenges you face with regard to housing currently in the county? (for you and those in your community)

Housing - Strategies

- Increase housing concentration around corridors with easy access to jobs, services, and transit.
- Plan for a wide variety of housing including microunits, tiny houses, duplexes, multiplexes, homeless, transitional, and supportive housing.
- Increase the number of income restricted affordable housing units
- Promote programs which increase racial and economic diversity in housing (homebuyer, foreclosure prevention, etc.)
- Minimize displacement and promote integration

Do you agree with the housing issues outlined in Thrive 2050?

Discussion Questions

- What do you want to make sure happens with regard to housing in the decades to come in Montgomery County?

Transportation - Issues

- **2/3 of all residents access work via personal vehicle**
- **Car-centric communities promote funding of road expansion projects and dependence on cars.** (discourages private investment)
- **Less investment in infrastructure that promotes safe and reliable biking, walking, rolling, and transit options.**
- **People without cars have difficulties accessing jobs which are not accessible by transit or walking/biking.**
- **Car usage contributes to greenhouse gas emissions and prevents transition to environmentally friendly transportation options.**

Do you agree with the transportation issues in Thrive 2050?

Discussion Questions

- What are the biggest challenges you face with regard to transportation currently in the county? (for you and those in your community)

Transportation - Strategies

- **Build a world class transit system connecting historically disadvantaged communities to jobs and services.**
- **Develop a safe, comfortable and appealing network for walking, biking, and rolling.**
- **Promote land use and transportation strategies that encourage walking, biking, and transit use.**
 - Congestion pricing
 - reduced parking
 - Street grid

Do you agree with the transportation strategies in Thrive 2050?



41: Connectivity is higher in a traditional grid of streets (Downtown Bethesda, left), compared to a conventional cul-de-sac pattern of streets (Olney, right).

Discussion Questions

- What do you want to make sure happens with regard to transportation in the decades to come in Montgomery County?

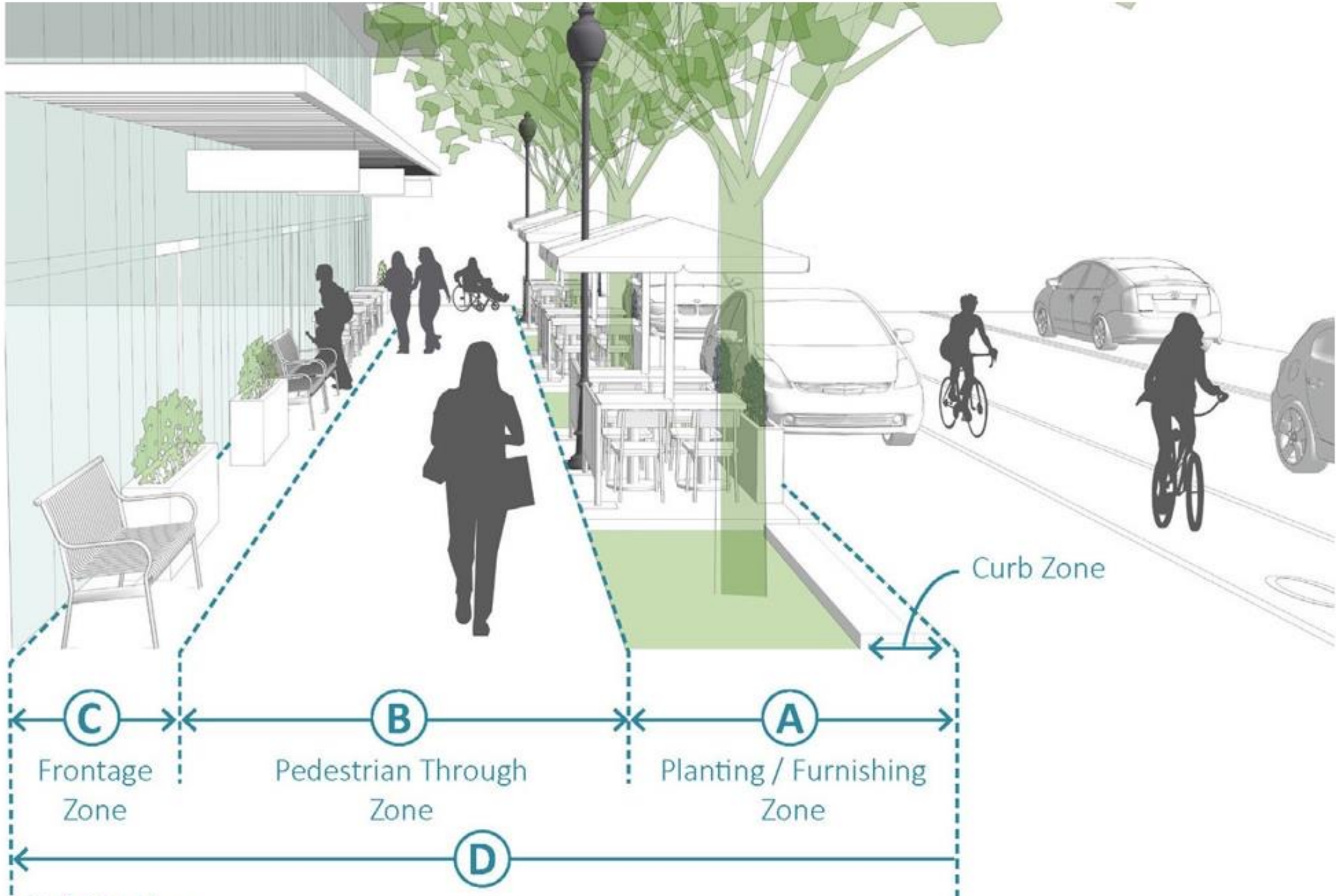
Design, Arts, and Culture

Design of the built environment strongly influences our quality of life. The pattern of development across a city, county, and region; the configuration of neighborhoods and districts; and the architecture of individual buildings collectively shape our perception of places and shape how we choose to travel, recreate and socialize.

Designs, Arts, and Culture – Issues

- **Current architecture and design priorities make it difficult for future urban design to match local geography, history, and culture of neighborhoods.**
- **Suburban Sprawl - Automobile-oriented design** has led to too dispersed buildings and sprawling parking lots = underbuilt sites that are poorly suited to repurpose or redevelop.
- Widening streets and spaces for parking discourage walking by making it less convenient and comfortable, and reduce space for sidewalks, seating, and greenery.
- **Euclidian Zoning** (separation of land use by type) – Single use districts restrict flexibility of land use

Do you agree with the design, arts, and culture issues in Thrive 2050?



Clear form-based design standards that are not overly prescriptive allow the mixing of uses, building types and architectural styles while ensuring a consistent quality of streets and public spaces

Discussion Questions

- What are the biggest challenges you face with regard to Design, Arts and Culture currently in the county? (for you and those in your community)

Designs, Arts, and Culture – Strategies

- Use design-based tools to create attractive places with lasting value that encourage social interaction and reinforce a sense of place and inclusion.
- Promote design strategies and retrofits to make new and existing buildings more sustainable and resilient to disruption and change.
- Design buildings, streets, and parking to prioritize pedestrian use, biking, and rolling.
- Support arts and cultural institutions and programming to educate, connect and build communities that celebrate our diversity and strengthen pride of place.

Do you agree with the Design, Arts, and Culture strategies in Thrive 2050?

Discussion Questions

- What do you want to make sure happens with regard to Design, Arts, and Culture in the decades to come in Montgomery County?

Parks and Recreation Issues

- Most populated areas are far from parkland, which are difficult to access without a car.
- Conservation spaces lack appropriate infrastructure for hikers and bikers.
- Parks can act as separators rather than gathering places for people.
- Park standards need to be improved, especially in underserved areas.

Do you agree with the Park and Recreation issues in Thrive 2050?

Discussion Question

- What are the biggest challenges you face with regard to parks and rec currently in the county? (for you and those in your community)

Parks and Recreation Strategies

- **Ensure parks and recreation facilities/programs are equitably distributed across racial, economic, and geographic lines.**
- **Use parks and recreation facilities/programs to promote healthy and active lifestyles**
- **Integrate parks/rec/public spaces into economic development strategies and land use planning to attract employers and workers, build connections, encourage healthy lifestyles and create vibrant places.**
- **Prioritize acquisition of land for parks and recreation facilities in urban centers and other high development areas**

Do you agree with the Park and Recreation strategies in Thrive 2050?

Discussion Questions

- What do you want to make sure happens with regard to Parks and Recreation in the decades to come in Montgomery County?

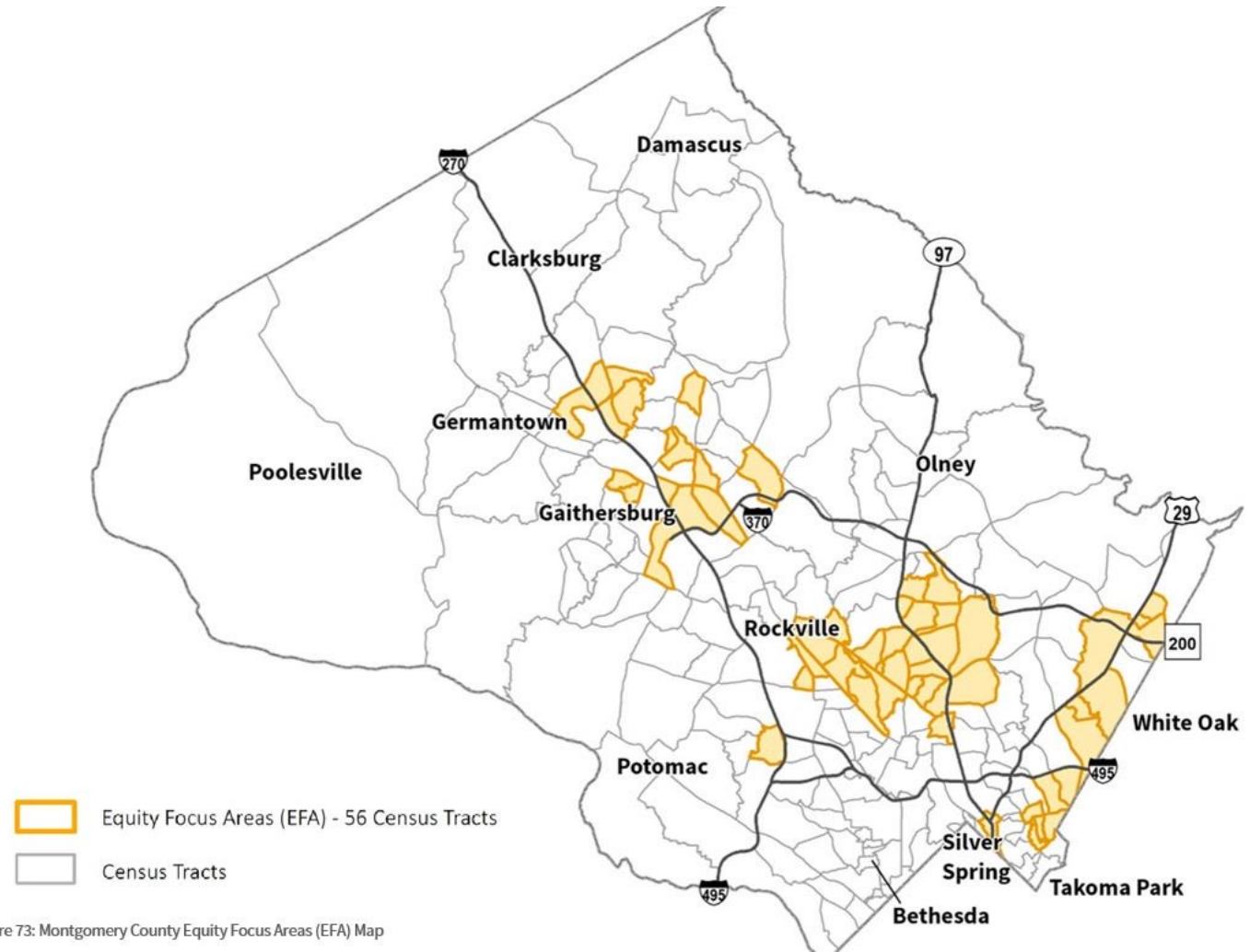
Discussion Questions: Jobs and Education

- What are the biggest challenges you face with regard to jobs and education currently in the county? (for you and those in your community)
- What do you want to make sure happens with regard to jobs and education in the decade(s) to come in Montgomery?

Discussion Questions: Public Health + Safety

- What are the biggest challenges you face with regard to public health + safety currently in the county? (for you and those in your community)
- What do you want to make sure happens with regard to public health + safety in the decade(s) to come in Montgomery?

Racial Equity and Social Justice



Themes for discussion

- Integration
- Environmental Justice
- Institutional Reparations (rebalancing)

Integration

How important do you think residential integration (including educational) and economic integration is to the future of the County? If leaning toward important, why? If leaning toward not important, why?

Environmental Justice

If we define environmental injustice as including inadequate access to healthy food, inadequate transportation, air and water pollution, and unsafe homes, etc.

- How well has the county done in recent years to address these issues in your community and other communities of color?
- What do you see as the top priorities in the next decade(s) for the county to address with regard to resolving environmental injustices in our communities?

Institutional Reparations

Given that the county's planning, housing, and economic practices have involved pervasive racial discrimination in the past, what structures, systems, and policies would you want to see the county put in place to make essential (or fundamental) change to repair the damage?



THRIVE
MONTGOMERY 2050
Let's Plan Our Future. Together.

RACIAL EQUITY & SOCIAL JUSTICE //

COMMUNITY FORUM

What are we focused on tonight?

01. **Welcome – Project Overview – What is Thrive Montgomery 2050**
02. **The Six Pillars of Thrive Montgomery 2050**
03. **Breakout #1: Ensuring Greater Racial Equity and Social Justice**
04. **Breakout #2: Improving Community Engagement**
05. **Polling & Next Steps**

Guidelines and Ground Rules

We will use:

- Zoom **polling** throughout the meeting to provide feedback on various issues and themes on Thrive
- The **Chat** feature periodically to gather feedback on different parts of the presentation and discussion
- **Breakout rooms** twice to allow participants to move into six smaller groups to weigh in on critical issues related to racial equity, social justice, and community engagement.
 - Each breakout will have a **facilitator** who will also capture participant comments into a Word worksheet
- The recording function to **record everything that happens in plenary**

NOTE: we will save all chat data from the plenary & breakout sessions

Opening Polling

(all responses are anonymous)

- What is your gender?
- What is your age?
- What is your income level?
- What is your race/ethnicity?

Project Overview

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The goal of our public outreach efforts will seek to:

- **Connect with Black, Indigenous, other 'People of Color' (BIPOC), and low-moderate income communities**
- **Gather input** on the current draft of Thrive 2050 from those communities
- Summarize recommendations into a summary report and **new plan chapter on racial equity and social justice**

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What is a General Plan?

A general plan is a long-range guide for the development of a community; the blueprint to achieving the vision set by residents of a city or county.

This blueprint provides broad guidance for land-use decisions as communities face unpredictable future opportunities and challenges that influence growth and development such as disruptions brought about by climate change, public health emergencies, and emerging technologies

Thrive's Organizing Principles:

Economic Performance
and Competitiveness

Racial Equity
and Social Inclusion

Environmental Resilience



COMPACT GROWTH:
Corridor Focused Development



COMPLETE COMMUNITIES:
Mix of Uses and Forms



HOUSING FOR ALL:
More of Everything



**PARKS & REC FOR AN
INCREASINGLY URBAN &
DIVERSE COMMUNITY:**
Active & Social



DESIGN, ARTS & CULTURE:
Investing & Building Community



**TRANSPORTATION
& COMMUNICATION
NETWORKS:**
Connecting People,
Places, & Ideas

Complete Communitie S



Complete communities are places that include the range of land uses, infrastructure, services, and amenities that allow them to meet a wide range of needs for a variety of people.

-
- | | |
|------------------|---|
| Policy 1: | Identify and integrate elements needed to complete centers of housing, retail, and office development and plan to make 15-minute living a reality for as many people as possible. |
|------------------|---|
-
- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Policy 2: | Encourage co-location and adjacency of all essential and public services, especially along growth corridors and in complete communities. |
|------------------|--|
-
- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Policy 3: | Retrofit centers of activity and large-scale single-use developments to include a mixture of uses and diversity of housing types and to provide a critical mass of housing, jobs, services, and amenities for vibrant, dynamic complete communities. |
|------------------|--|

Poll Question

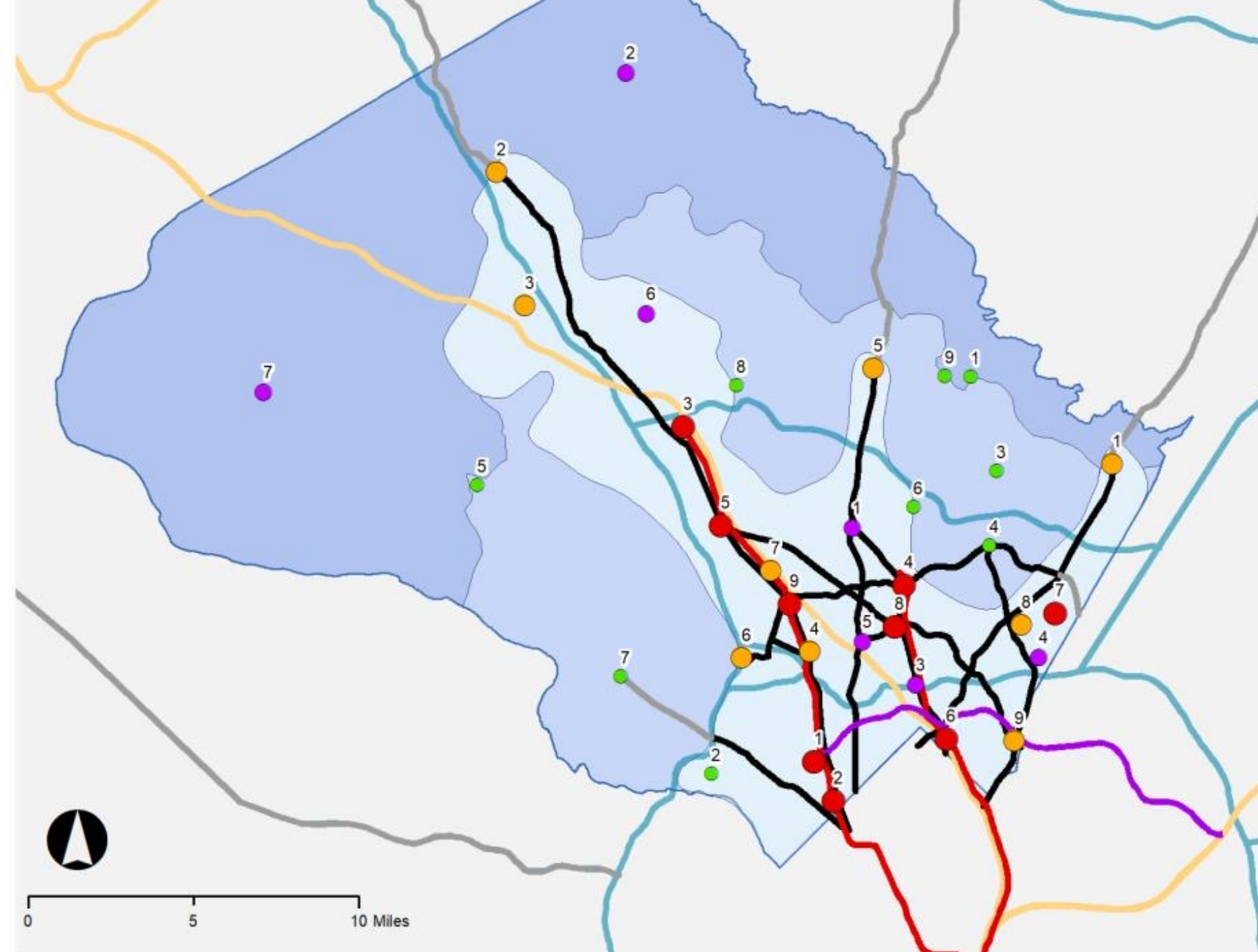
- Based on what you know, do you agree that the focus on complete communities is a good strategy for future development in the Thrive 2050 plan?

Compact Growth

Thrive Montgomery 2050 proposes redoubling and refining efforts to concentrate growth in downtowns, town centers, rural villages, and intensively developed centers of activity, or nodes, and a new commitment to promoting growth along major transportation corridors to maximize the efficient use of land and create Complete Communities.

Benefits of compact growth:

- Connects residents to existing and future centers of activity and complete communities.
- Create corridors that have robust transit service in place or planned or are located close to existing concentrations of jobs, services, and infrastructure in ways that lend themselves to create complete communities.



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 - 4. Colesville
 - 5. Darnestown
 - 6. Layhill
 - 7. Potomac Village
 - 8. Redland
 - 9. Sandy Spring

Poll Question

- Do you agree that leveraging existing centers and corridors (compact development) is a good strategy for future development in the Thrive 2050 plan?

Housing



Issues

85% OF THE COUNTY LAND

is already developed or constrained while population is expected to increase by 200,000 over the next 30 years.

1/3 OF THE COUNTY LAND AREA

is zoned for single family housing, preventing ability to provide greater variety of housing units in desired locations. – new housing is larger, not smaller

Higher demand for housing and limited availability are causing increasing numbers of low-income residents to be burdened by housing costs

High cost and limited availability of housing **increase inequality and segregation by race**, with predominantly white people living in more expensive neighborhoods with better access to jobs, schools and transportation options.



Solutions

Increase residential options and concentration along different corridors with better access to jobs, services, and transit, to accommodate population growth

Plan for a wide range of housing types and sizes to meet diverse needs including microunits, cottages, tiny houses, duplexes, multiplexes, homeless and transitional housing, senior housing.

Increase the number of income restricted **affordable housing units**, especially for low-income households.

Promote racial and economic diversity and equity in housing including implementing affordable housing programs, minimize gentrification and displacement, expand home ownership programs , and promote integration and de-concentration of poverty.

HOUSING: Polling Questions

- Do you feel that the housing issues outlined in Thrive 2050 are representative of the challenges in your home community?
- Do you agree with the housing policies outlined in Thrive 2050 to address our housing issues?
- How well do these policies address the issues of racial equity and social justice?

Transportation



Issues

Auto-dependence

2/3 of all Montgomery County residents commute to work via personal vehicle.

Car-centric Communities

promote the funding of road expansion projects. These projects create unattractive and unsafe corridors that prevent communities from feeling safe, connected, and reliable. This has discouraged private investment.

Safety

Car centric communities reduce funding and effort time allocated to building infrastructure to promote safe walking, rolling, and biking, and access to public transit.

Reduced Quality of Living

Lack of alternative transportation options to driving make it difficult to access to jobs, including jobs in the West side of the county, which are not easily accessible by transit.

Reduced Climate Resilience

Single-occupancy vehicle usage contributes to increased greenhouse gas emissions and prevents transition to green transportation options.



Solutions

Adapt policies that will reflect the economic and environmental cost of driving alone

Build a world class transit system connecting historically disadvantaged to jobs, etc. by prioritizing investment in their communities.

Develop a safe and comfortable and appealing network for walking, biking, and rolling.

Develop and extend advanced communications networks that focus investments in areas of the county that lack convenient access to jobs and education

Promote land use and transportation strategies that encourage walking, biking and transit use improve environmental performance

- Prioritize establishing street grid (local street connections)
- Bike/ped/transit investments
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Reducing parking supply



41: Connectivity is higher in a traditional grid of streets (Downtown Bethesda, left), compared to a conventional cul-de-sac pattern of streets (Olney, right).

TRANSPORTATION: Polling Questions

- Do you feel that the transportation issues outlined in Thrive 2050 are representative of the challenges in your home community?
- Do you agree with the transportation policies outlined in Thrive 2050 to address our housing issues?
- How well do these policies address the issues of racial equity and social justice?

Design, Arts, and Culture



Issues

Auto-centric urban design causes urban sprawl

That compromises the quality of living of places including community connectedness, safety, accessibility, and reliability.

Design for cars at the expense of people and adaptability

Car-centric designs that promote road expansions and surface parking discourage walking, biking, and rolling, reduce access to safe infrastructure and spaces for public use

Increasing need for investment in public art, placemaking, and organizations that serve at risk populations. Need more affordable living, work, and sales space.



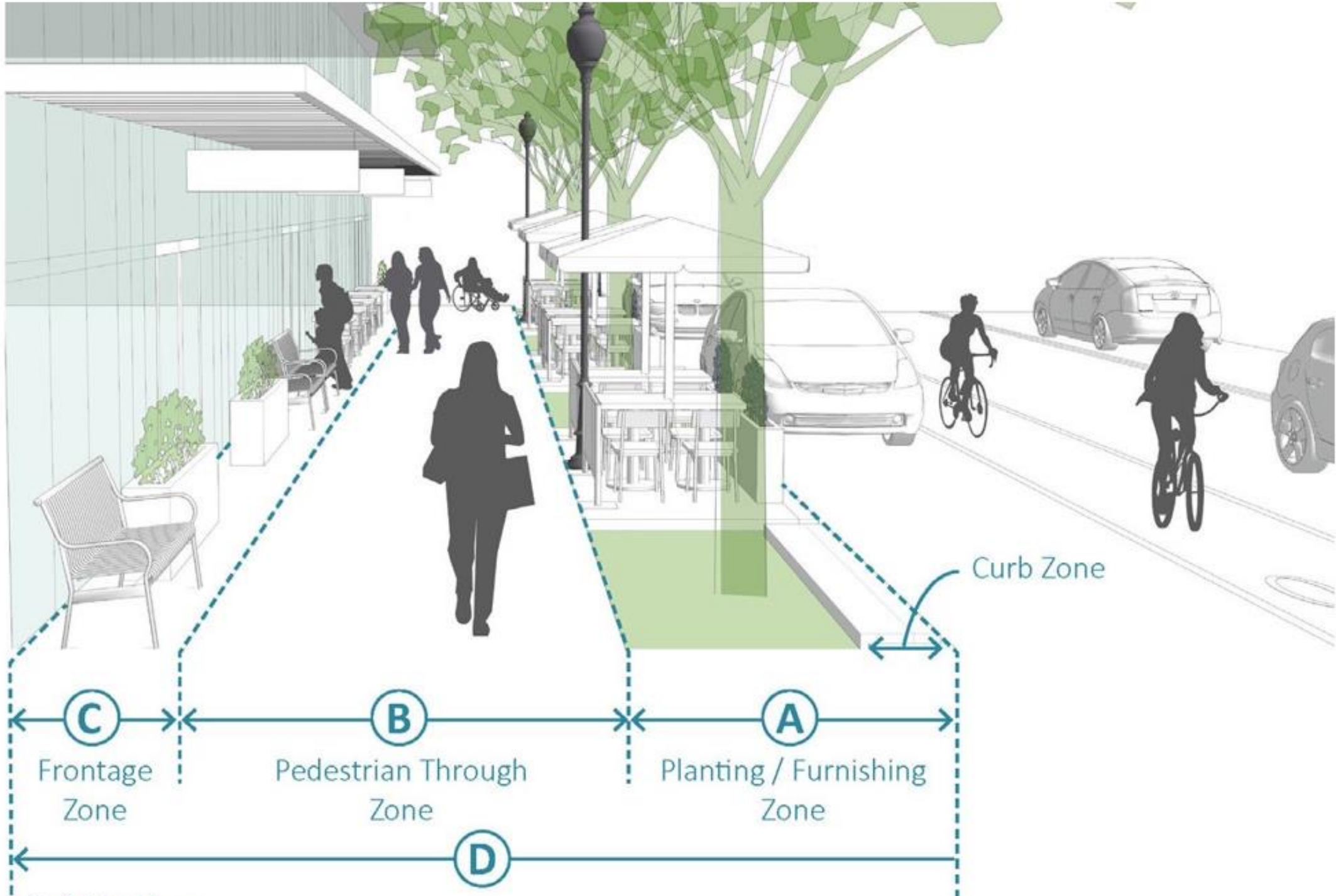
Solutions

Use designed based tools to create attractive places with lasting value that encourage social interaction and reinforce a sense of place and inclusion

Promote design strategies and retrofits to make new and existing buildings more sustainable and resilient to disruption and change

Support arts and culture institutions and programming to educate, connect, and build communities that celebrate our diversity and strengthen pride of places

Prioritize human interactions by creating places that welcome and attract people from different backgrounds.



Clear form-based design standards that are not overly prescriptive allow the mixing of uses, building types and architectural styles while ensuring a consistent quality of streets and public spaces

DESIGN, ARTS, & CULTURE: Polling Questions

- Do you feel that the design, arts, and culture issues outlined in Thrive 2050 are representative of the challenges in your home community?
- Do you agree with the design, arts, and culture policies outlined in Thrive 2050 to address our housing issues?
- How well do these policies address the issues of racial equity and social justice?

Parks & Recreation



Issues

Most populated areas are far from most parkland, which are difficult to access without a car.

Conservation spaces lack appropriate infrastructure for hikers and bikers.

Parks conceived as buffers often act as separators rather than gathering places for people.

Park facility standards and acquisition strategies are incompatible with principles to advance compact growth.



Solutions

Use park and recreation facilities/programs to promote active lifestyles

Ensure that parks and recreation opportunities are equitably distributed along racial, socioeconomic, and geographic lines.

Coordinate with county agencies to accommodate multiple needs, including recreation, education, community building, and resource stewardship – through colocation, adaptive reuse, co-programming and other combined or shared land and facilities.

Integrate parks/rec/public spaces into economic development strategies and land use planning to attract employers and workers, build connections, encourage healthy lifestyles and create vibrant places.

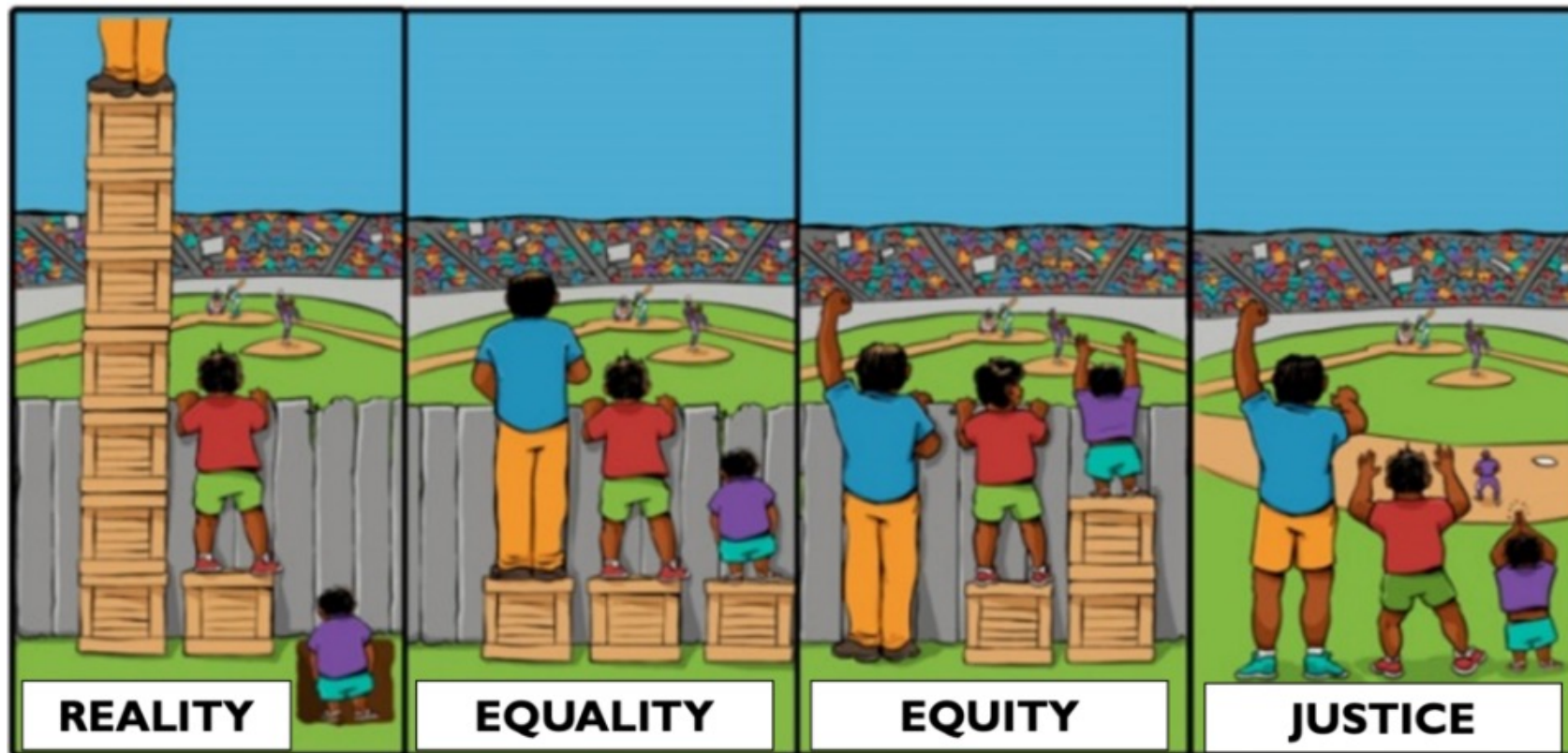
PARKS & RECREATION: Polling Questions

- Do you feel that the parks and recreation issues outlined in Thrive 2050 are representative of the challenges in your home community?
- Do you agree with the parks and recreation policies outlined in Thrive 2050 to address our issues?
- How well do these policies address the issues of racial equity and social justice?

Equity & Justice from the Thrive plan draft

Advancing racial equity through just planning policies and public investments in underserved communities, promoting the racial and economic integration of neighborhoods, and focusing on the potential for the design of communities to help **build social trust and inclusion** while encouraging civic participation are among the most significant elements of Thrive Montgomery 2050. Thrive Montgomery 2050 strives to **create racially integrated and just communities**.

Disparate Reality – Equality – Equity - Justice



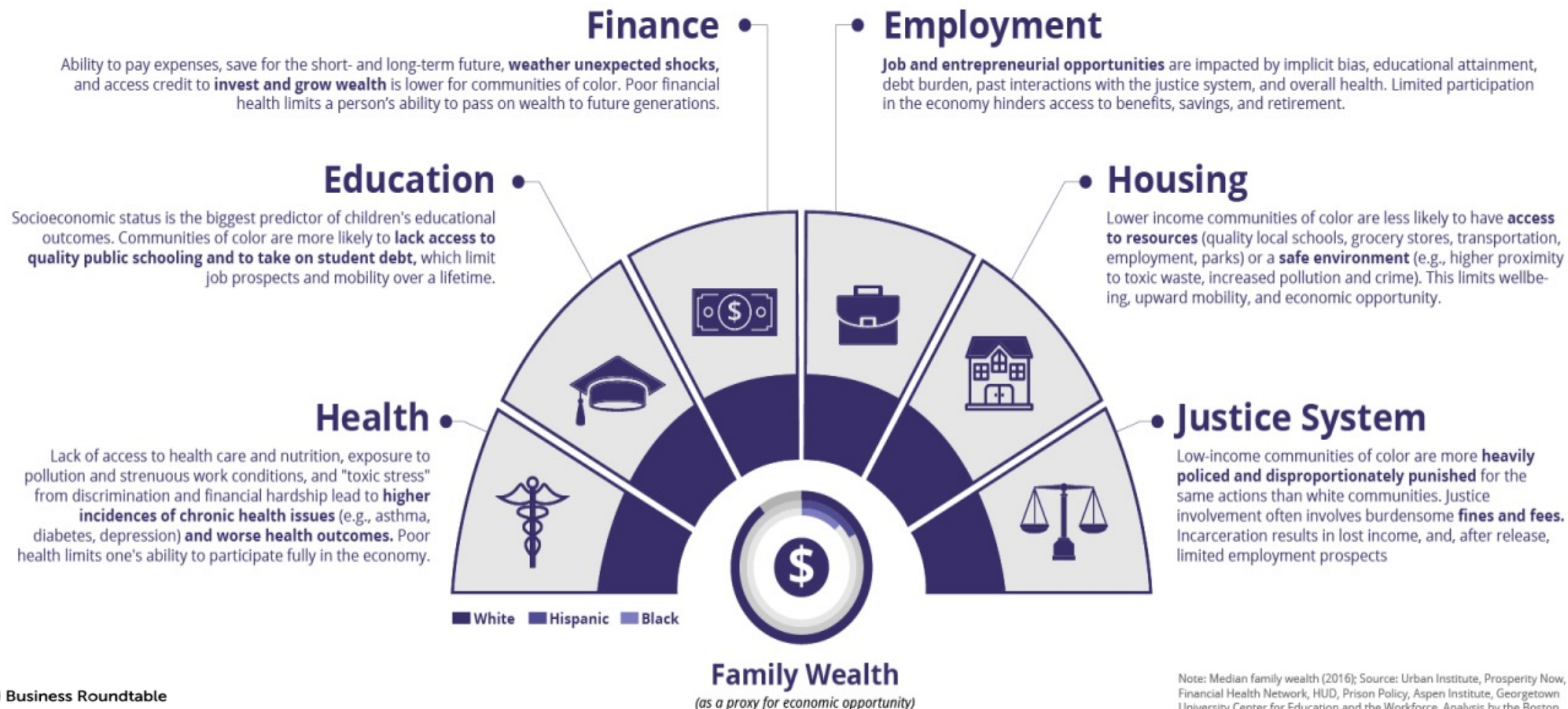
One gets **more than** is needed, while the other gets **less than** is needed. Thus, a huge disparity is created.

The assumption is that **everyone benefits from the same supports**. This is considered to be equal treatment.

Everyone gets the support they need, which produces equity.

All 3 can see the game without supports or accommodations because **the cause(s) of the inequity was addressed**. The systemic barrier has been removed.

Racial disparities in economic opportunity limit access to the key enablers for promoting wellbeing and prosperity



Racial Equity + Social Justice Target Areas

Target Areas

Montgomery County, MD

Legend

- Primary Target Areas
- Secondary Target Areas
- Urban Districts
- Municipalities
- Communities

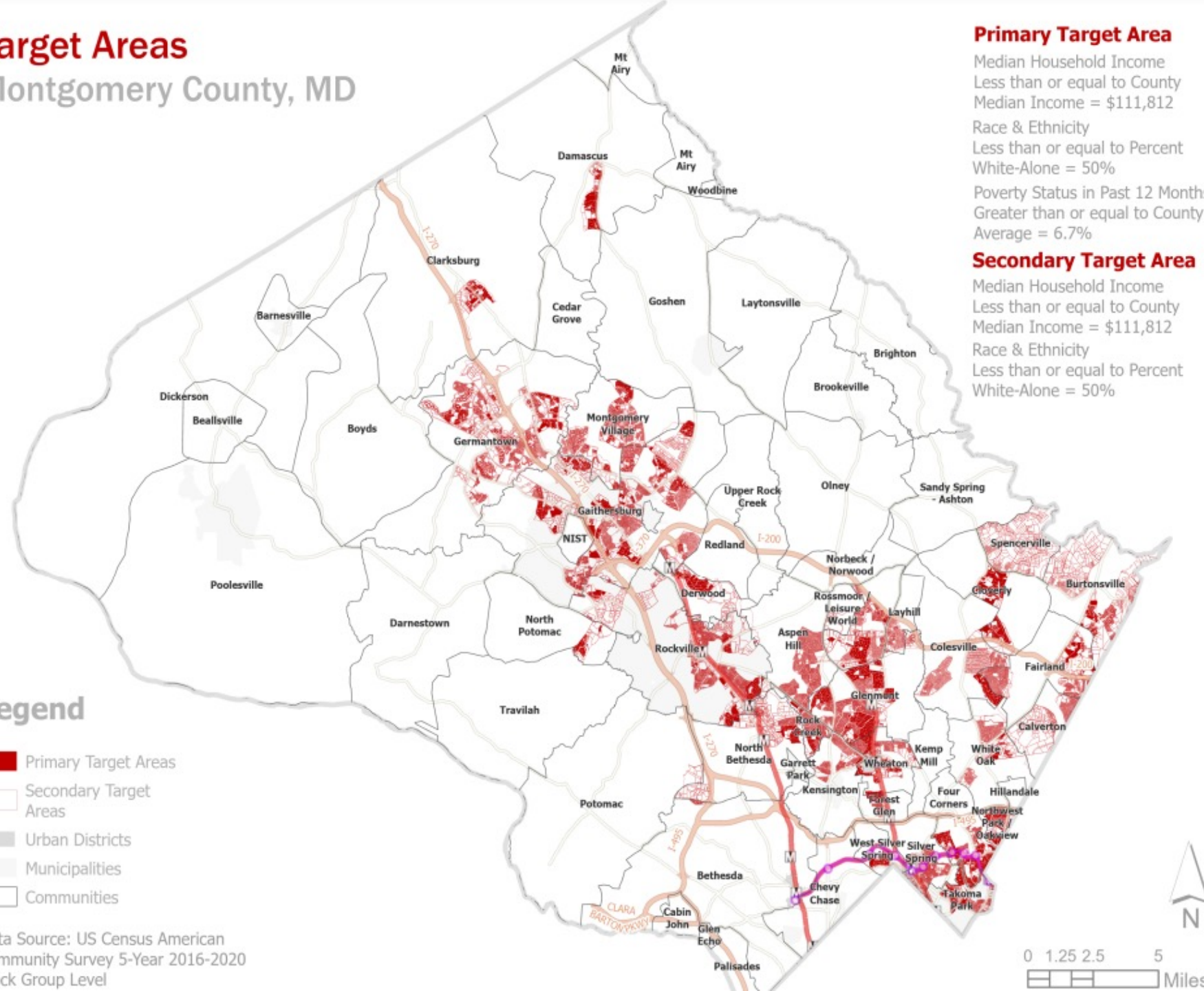
Data Source: US Census American
Community Survey 5-Year 2016-2020
Block Group Level

Primary Target Area

Median Household Income
Less than or equal to County
Median Income = \$111,812
Race & Ethnicity
Less than or equal to Percent
White-Alone = 50%
Poverty Status in Past 12 Months
Greater than or equal to County
Average = 6.7%

Secondary Target Area

Median Household Income
Less than or equal to County
Median Income = \$111,812
Race & Ethnicity
Less than or equal to Percent
White-Alone = 50%



Who County Council asked us to recruit for this initiative

- Identify and conduct targeted outreach **to BIPOC and low-moderate income populations** to gather input primarily through focus groups and a community survey and conversations with community group leaders

Concerns we've heard from Focus Groups re: Racial Equity and Social Justice

1. There is a **profound East-West divide in the county** that includes disparities in job centers; school quality; shopping/restaurant options; housing quality; safety/security, and other amenities, etc.
2. The likely result of economic integration and gentrification is **BIPOC and low-income household displacement**.
3. Plan seems to assume “one size fits all,” but that is not the reality. **Needs to be context-and location-sensitive**
4. There is a **lack of accountability** in county's institutional systems ex. Public Safety + Building inspections
5. The plan **doesn't really address the needs** of working class/blue collar households
6. We must address our current **root challenges first** before making shift towards long-term goals ex. Compact Growth, Congestion pricing, etc.

DISCUSSION ONE: Rebalancing Ensuring Greater Racial Equity & Social Justice

As the County grows, what are some **specific things we can do** to ensure that it achieves social, environmental, and economic prosperity while **addressing historically established injustices** (segregation, wealth gap, etc.) and **diminishing potential socio-economic disparities** (ex. displacement, environmental justice, etc.) in the future?

Instructions for Breakout #1

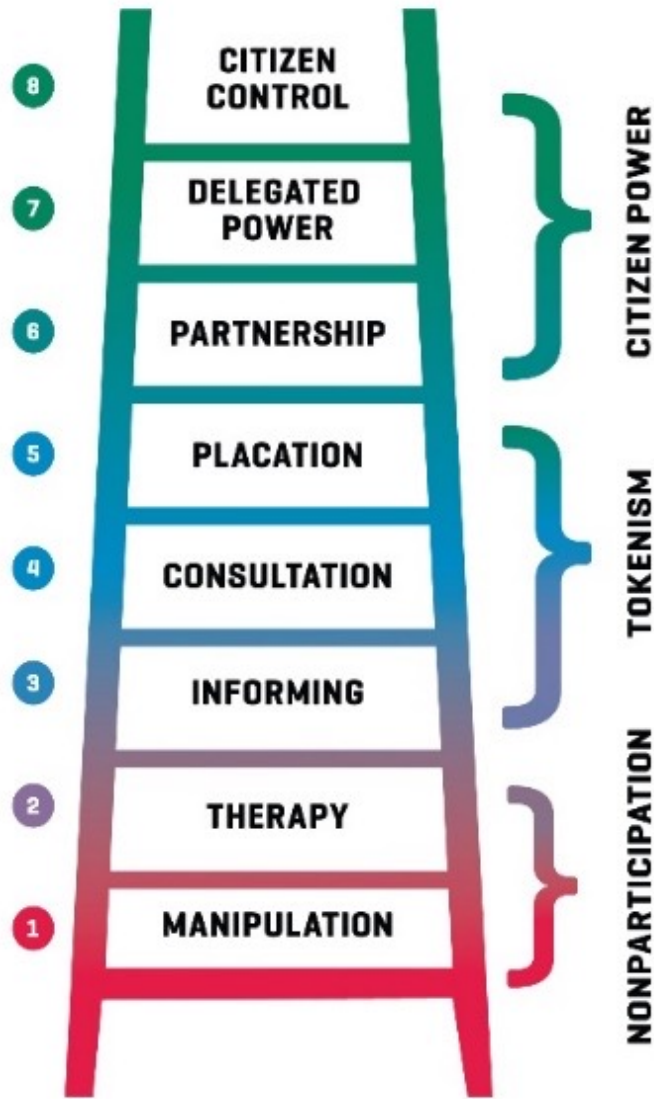
- These breakouts will each have a **facilitator**. **Six total breakout rooms** so each will have as many as 20+ participants
- We will only have **15-20 minutes** for this discussion
- Please keep your comments **succinct** and focused on answering the question posed **so as many people as possible can speak**
- Be **respectful** in your comments and **listen attentively** what each person has to say
- If **you don't want to speak** in the breakout, please put your **answer in chat**
- If there is not time for you to speak when you're in the queue, be ready to put your answer in chat

NOTE: we will save all chat data from the breakout sessions

Chat

- Please type in the Chat one insight you had in your breakout discussion.

Improving Engagement with Historically Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Communities Going Forward



Where should we land on the ladder of engagement?



Ideas to Consider for Centering Historically Disadvantaged and Vulnerable Communities in County Planning Processes

- **Empower marginalized and most-impacted** populations in the planning process
- Build **trust** by showing **respect** to communities, especially through **listening**
- Demonstrate **cultural competence** when dealing with a range of racial, cultural, and ethnic groups
- Understand historical context and **address the structural factors that** are the root causes of inequity
- **Compensate** people for their expertise and efforts
- Develop **accountability** measures for sustainable systems change around equity and justice

DISCUSSION TWO:

Improving Community Engagement

What ideas do you have that you believe would allow the planning department and the Council to **more effectively mobilize and engage people of color, immigrants, and lower-income residents** in planning and policy-making in the future?

Instructions for Breakout #2

- Please keep your comments **succinct** and focused on answering the question posed **so as many people as possible can speak**
- Be **respectful** in your comments and **listen attentively** what each person has to say
- If **you don't want to speak** in the breakout, please put your **answer in chat**
- If there is not time for you to speak when you're in the queue, be ready to put your answer in chat

NOTE: we will save all chat data from the breakout sessions

Chat

- Please type in the Chat one insight you had in your breakout discussion.

Final Polling

- How worried are you about displacement?
- What is current level of trust in the Montgomery County government, especially with regard to planning?
- What is your level willingness to engage with the county on policy-making and planning in future years?
- To what degree would you like to see racial equity and social justice incorporated into the Thrive 2050 plan?

Next Steps

- Fill out the survey – promote it among friends/colleagues (see link in Chat)
- Track the process in September and October with the County Council –
<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/resources/Thrive2050/index.html>

The Montgomery County Council is working with Nspiregreen and Public Engagement Associates to inform the development of Thrive Montgomery 2050 (Thrive 2050). Thrive 2050 is the countywide general plan being developed by the Montgomery County Planning Department.

This second round of engagement will focus on outreach to Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) residents and groups from low-income backgrounds. Input gathered from this round of engagement will be used to inform a racial equity and social justice review of Thrive 2050 and the development of a new racial equity and social justice chapter for the plan.

Participation in this questionnaire will be strictly confidential and completion is expected to take approximately 8 minutes. Upon completing the survey, you will have a chance to enter a raffle to win one of the 300 gift cards (\$10 and \$50)

To learn more about Thrive 2050, visit [Montgomery County Council's website.](#)

* 1. Are you aware of THRIVE Montgomery 2050, general plan for the County?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Thrive 2050 is a visionary document that provides a blueprint for how and where the county will grow over the next 30+ years. Thrive 2050 touches on issues of housing, land use, transportation, parks, economic development, and the environment.

* 2. When did you first become aware of Thrive 2050?

- ☐ From plan kick off in 2019
- ☐ During first round of engagement 2019-2021
- ☐ I saw a news article about the draft plan in 2021
- ☐ When County revised the plan earlier in 2022
- ☐ I just heard about it this summer of 2022
- ☐ None of the above

* 3. Have you participated in any of the following engagement activities in the past?

- ☐ I signed up to receive emails from Thrive 2050
- ☐ I follow Montgomery Planning's Social Media
- ☐ I participated in virtual/in-person meetings
- ☐ I provided public testimony
- ☐ I participated in community pop-up events
- ☐ I received a "meeting in a box" toolkit
- ☐ I participated in previous questionnaires
- ☐ None of the above
- ☐ Other (please specify)

The following questions will ask you about your thoughts on the primary areas discussed in Thrive 2050. If any of these concepts are unfamiliar to you, we encourage you to review the draft plan for more information. You can find the draft plan [here](#).

* 4. Thrive 2050 prioritizes developing a strong economy, protecting the environment, and advancing racial equity and social justice as its primary themes. **Do you agree that these issues should be prioritized throughout the entire THRIVE 2050 plan?**

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly agree	I don't understand
Strong Economy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Protecting the Environment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Racial Equity and Social Justice	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

* 5. Do the following six focus areas outlined in THRIVE 2050 fit your vision for where the County should be going?

	It doesn't fit my vision at all	It doesn't fit my vision	Neutral	It fits my vision	It absolutely fits my vision	I don't understand what this is about
Compact Growth	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Complete Communities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Design, Arts, and Culture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transportation and Communication Networks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Affordable and Attainable Housing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Parks and Recreation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

6. Are there other themes that are important to you but are not included in the question above?

* 7. What are 1-3 words that describe your hopes for Montgomery County's future?

Complete Communities

THRIVE 2050 sets a vision for Montgomery County to prosper in the areas of Jobs and Economic Opportunities, Housing, Transportation, Parks & Public Spaces, and Arts & Culture. We want to hear about how you feel about these issues. **For the following topics, please indicate if you have any concerns:**

*** 8. Concerns about Jobs and Economic Opportunities (Check all that apply).**

- ☐ Length of commute
- ☐ Transportation costs
- ☐ Training and educational opportunities
- ☐ Wages
- ☐ Access to local jobs
- ☐ Information about opportunities
- ☐ Competition
- ☐ None of the above

*** 9. Housing Concerns (Check all that apply).**

- ☐ Cost
- ☐ Access
- ☐ Living space
- ☐ Housing quality
- ☐ Safety
- ☐ Location
- ☐ Information/Resources
- ☐ Displacement/Gentrification (being pushed out of your home or neighborhood because of housing prices)
- ☐ Maintenance
- ☐ Proximity to shopping/dinning/recreation
- ☐ None of the above

*** 10. Transportation Concerns (Check all that apply).**

- ☐ Cost
- ☐ Reliability
- ☐ Convenience
- ☐ Parking
- ☐ Safety
- ☐ Signage
- ☐ Accessibility for persons with disabilities
- ☐ None of the above

* 11. Parks and Public Spaces Concerns (Check all that apply).

- ☐ Safety
- ☐ Pollution / Environmental Quality
- ☐ Lack of amenities
- ☐ Difficulty getting to parks/public spaces (Accessibility)
- ☐ Restricted Access
- ☐ Cost
- ☐ Lack of recreational opportunities
- ☐ Proximity to home
- ☐ None of the above

12. Are there any concerns that you have that are not listed above?

Equity, Race, and Discrimination

* 13. To what extent do you agree that Montgomery County has offered good opportunities for you to get ahead economically?

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

* 14. In comparison to other neighborhoods in the County, how do you rate your neighborhood's availability of County services, such as libraries, parks, community centers, schools, and public safety (police, fire, EMS)?

- ☐ Very poor
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Average
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Very good

* 15. Do you agree with the following statement? **My neighborhood can safely and conveniently meet all of the needs of our household.**

- ☐ Strongly disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Neither agree nor disagree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Strongly agree

* 16. How would you rate race relations in Montgomery County?

- ☐ Not tense at all
- ☐ A little tense
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Somewhat tense
- ☐ Very tense
- ☐ I'm not sure

* 17. Have you ever experienced discrimination based on your ethnicity in Montgomery County?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

* 18. Please check the box for each area that you or a member of your immediate household experienced discrimination or unfair treatment with (check all that apply):

- ☐ Employment
- ☐ Rental housing
- ☐ Home ownership
- ☐ Utility services
- ☐ Policing and court system
- ☐ Consumer, financial services, and credit
- ☐ Health care
- ☐ Access to governmental assistance, programs, or services
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Private business
- ☐ Code enforcement
- ☐ Not Sure
- ☐ Other (please specify)

- ☐ None of the above

* 19. How high of a priority should it be for government to address the racial equity gaps in education, criminal justice, jobs, health, housing and other areas? With 0 being the lowest priority and 10 being the highest priority.

0

5

10

Demographics

Lastly, we are requesting demographic information in order to ensure that our planning process prioritizes the needs and desires of communities of color that are most impacted by racism and inequality. This information will be confidential and will only be used to identify who we talked to in the County.

* 20. How did you hear about this questionnaire?

- ☐ Montgomery Council website
- ☐ Thrive 2050 social media / newsletter
- ☐ Mailing sent to my house
- ☐ Pop up event
- ☐ Flyer/postcard at community center, library, restaurant, etc.
- ☐ Community organization sent information about the survey
- ☐ I spoke to a Thrive 2050 representative over the phone or in-person
- ☐ If you received information through a community organization, please let us know which one:

- ☐ None of the above

* 21. In what city/town do you live?

* 22. In what zip code do you live?

* 23. What's your age group?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 18-24
- ☐ 25-34
- ☐ 35-44
- ☐ 45-54
- ☐ 55-64
- ☐ 65+

* 24. Which gender do you identify with the most?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Transgender
- ☐ Non-binary/ Non-confirming
- ☐ Prefer not to respond

* 25. Which of the following best describes you? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- ☐ Hispanic, Latino/a/x, Spanish origin
- ☐ White

* 26. What are the primary languages spoken in your household? (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ English
- ☐ Spanish
- ☐ Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese and Hokkien)
- ☐ Tagalog (including Filipino)
- ☐ Vietnamese
- ☐ Arabic
- ☐ French
- ☐ Korean
- ☐ Farsi
- ☐ Amharic
- ☐ Swahili
- ☐ Other (please specify)

* 27. What's your country of origin?

* 28. Not counting yourself, how many adults age 18 or older live in your household?

* 29. How many children under the age of 18 live in your household?

* 30. What was your total household income from all sources in 2020 before taxes?

- ☐ Under \$15,000
- ☐ Between \$15,000 and \$29,999
- ☐ Between \$30,000 and \$49,999
- ☐ Between \$50,000 and \$74,999
- ☐ Between \$75,000 and \$99,999
- ☐ Between \$100,000 and \$150,000
- ☐ Over \$150,000

* 31. Please select your highest level of education achieved.

- ☐ Some high school
- ☐ High School or GED
- ☐ Some college or trade school
- ☐ Bachelor degree
- ☐ Master's degree or higher

* 32. What is your current housing status?

- ☐ Rent
- ☐ Own
- ☐ Living with family/friends
- ☐ Living in a shelter
- ☐ Unhoused
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Raffle Information

33. Are you interested in receiving one of the \$10 gift cards and entering a raffle to win one of the \$50 gift cards?

☐ Yes

☐ No

34. What's your email? This information will be used to contact you if you qualify for one of the gift cards.

35. What's your phone number? This information will be used to contact you if you qualify for one of the gift cards.

Future Engagement

36. We are planning focus groups in July and August. Are you interested in participating?

- ☐ Yes, i'm interested
- ☐ No, i'm not interested

To sign up for a focus group, please visit this [page](#).

Overview

The Thrive Montgomery 2050 Community Questionnaire was conducted from July 19, 2022, to August 20, 2022. A total of 1860 participants took the questionnaire, with 37 people taking the questionnaire completely in Spanish. Out of 1860 participants, 71% reported that they were already aware of Thrive Montgomery 2050 plan, while 28% reported never having heard about Thrive Montgomery 2050.

Purpose

The Thrive Montgomery 2050 Community Questionnaire was designed to gather feedback on 3 primary areas:

- Measure the level of public understanding of the focus planning areas on plan, including compact growth, complete communities, housing, transportation, design, arts & culture, parks & recreation.
- Incorporate racial equity and social justice-based questions to understand residents' perception on issues of race, discrimination, segregation, and equitable access to county resources.
- Understand the level of engagement and demographic background from participants previously engaged in Thrive 2050 public involvement work coordinated by the Montgomery County Planning Department.

Methodology

The Thrive Montgomery 2050 Community Questionnaire was conducted to gather input about the current focus planning areas identified on Thrive 2050. The questionnaire also gathered information about other systemic issues of race, segregation, and equity that are not explicitly mentioned in the plan, but that nonetheless can impact how underrepresented community members experience housing, transportation, design, arts, culture, and parks and recreation.

The questionnaire was conducted through the QuestionnaireMonkey and was open to any resident of Montgomery County who wanted to take the questionnaire. The decision to make this questionnaire an open questionnaire was explicit. An open questionnaire would allow the consultant team to share the link with community organizations that already have the trust and an established working relationships with members from BIPOC communities and would allow them to disseminate the questionnaire through their networks. While statistically significant questionnaires continue to be the preferred way to gather representative data in planning studies, such a methodology also comes with issues that impact racial equity and inclusion. Statistically significant questionnaires often draw eligible participants and/or addresses from Census data that do not provide a fair representation of a community. Additionally, when

reaching out to BIPOC communities, organizers must consider the systemic barriers in accessing owning and gaining access to long term housing . As a result, data that can tell us that we are reaching out to underrepresented communities might be outdated.

Consultants incentivized people to participate on the questionnaire by offering them the chance to enter a raffle to win either a \$10 or \$50 gift cards. Because of the racial equity and social justice emphasis of this project, answers were required for all questions on the questionnaire, including the demographic questionsto enter the raffle officially. However, if people chose to end the questionnaire without responding to the demographic information, their answers to the main questions were still saved without their demographic information.

Section 1: Public Awareness of Thrive Montgomery 2050 [Q1-Q3, Q20]

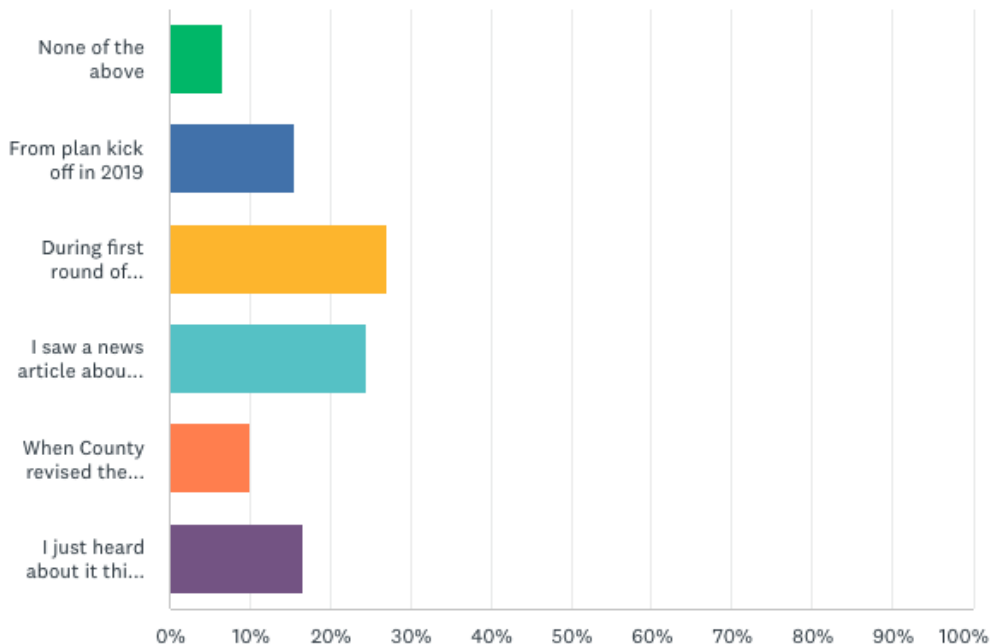
As advised by the Advisory Committee, the first section of the questionnaire focused on evaluating public awareness of the Thrive Montgomery planning process. This section was composed of asking three primary questions:

Q1: Are you aware of Thrive Montgomery 2050, the general plan for the County?

Q2 [If answer was yes to Q1]: When did you first become aware of Thrive 2050?

Q3: Have you participated in the any of the following engagement activities in the past?

Answers to these questions show that 71% of participants who took the questionnaire were already aware about Thrive Montgomery 2050, while 29% had not heard about Thrive 2050 before. Out of the 71% of people with knowledge about Thrive 2050, 27% of people identified having heard about Thrive 2050 during the first round of engagement from 2019-2021 and 15% said they have followed the Thrive 2050 process since the plan kick-off. The second group of people were participants who became aware of Thrive 2050 after Council revised the plan, with 24% saying they learned about it through a news article about the draft plan being reviewed by council and 10% when the County Council revised the plan. The final group of participants (17%) were those who had just learned about Thrive 2050 during the summer of 2022.



The source of information about Thrive 2050 varied throughout the respondents that indicated they already knew about Thrive 2050. About half of the people learned about Thrive 2050 through previous engagement work done by Montgomery Planning. This includes 11% of participants who heard about it from Montgomery Planning’s Social Media, 8% from the Thrive 2050 distribution list, 12% from public meetings held in the first round of the engagement process, 4% who provided public testimony, 3% from pop-up events, 0.24% from meetings in a box toolkit, and 5% from previous questionnaires.

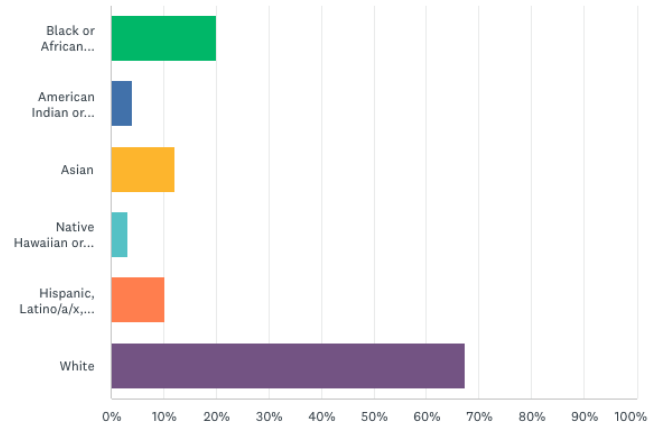
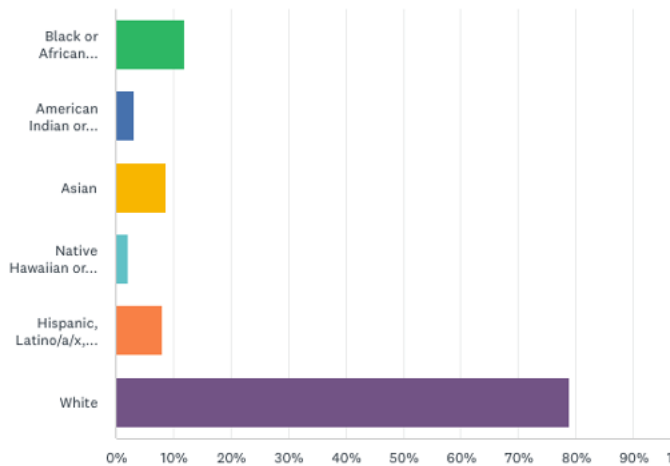
The other 46% reported having heard about Thrive through other methods. Other platforms that were mentioned included receiving information from their county council member, community listserves, individual advocacy work, and other advocacy groups, such as Coalition for Smarter Growth, Epic of MoCo, GB Youth Media filmmakers, League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, Responsible Growth 4 MoCo.

Participants without awareness about Thrive 2050 reported knowing about the questionnaire through the following platforms **[Q20]**:

Montgomery Council Website	8%
Thrive 2050 social media/newsletter	11%
Postcard sent home	26%
Pop-up event	1%
Flyer at community center, library, etc.	1%
Community organization sent information about questionnaire:	25%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CHEER 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Springfield Neighborhood Association • MoCo DSA • IMPACT Silver Spring • South Four Corners • CSG • MCDOT Newsletter • Town of Chevy Chase Listserv • Technical Solutions • MoCo Show • Source of the Spring • Neighborhoods listserves • Silver Spring Village • Dan Reed's Twitter • Reddit Group • MoCo SafeG • MoCo Green Party • Kensington View Civiv Association • Bethesda UCC • Council Newsletter • Cloverly Civic Association 	
I spoke to a Thrive 2050 representative over the phone or in person	2%
None of the above	26%

The demographic background between those involved and aware of Thrive 2050 before this questionnaire and those recently learning about it, show some differences. For those who were previously aware of Thrive 2050, the majority of them (79%) identified as White, while 21% identified as BIPOC. For those who had not heard about Thrive 2050, 67% identified as white and 33% as BIPOC.



Section 2: Thrive Montgomery 2050 Planning Areas [Q4 – Q12]

Section 2 of the questionnaire asked participants to describe their hopes for Montgomery County's future in 1-3 words. A word cloud of the most mentioned words can be found below:

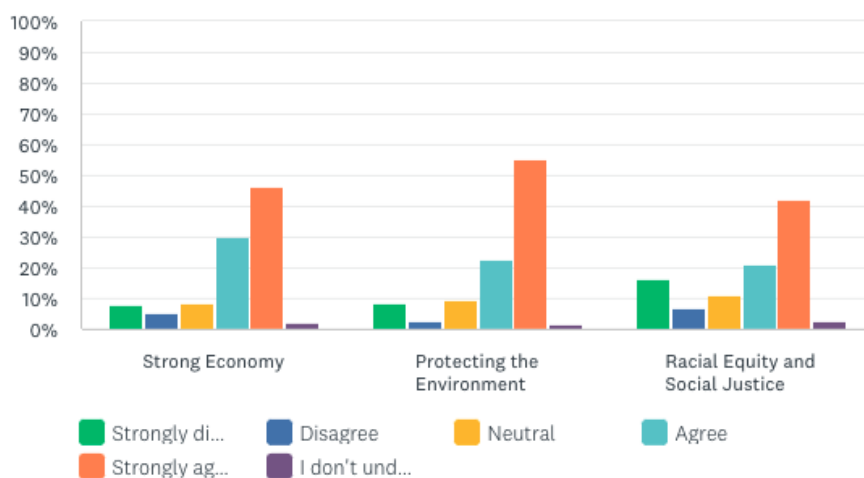
Q7 What are 1-3 words that describe your hopes for Montgomery County's future?



For Q7, affordability, safety, sustainability, diversity, equity, and affordable housing, jobs, walkable/walkability, and education were some of the most mentioned words.

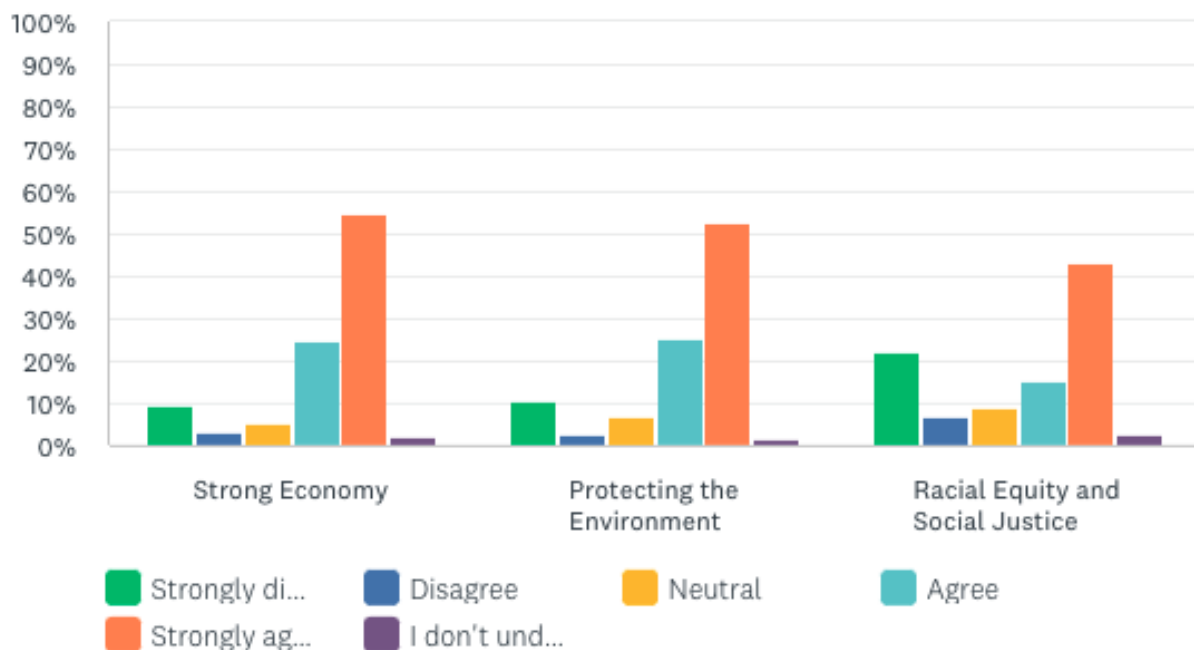
Section 2 then proceeded to ask participants about Thrive Montgomery 2050's priorities to develop a strong economy, protect the environment, and advance racial equity and social justice.

Q4: Thrive 2050 prioritizes developing a strong economy, protecting the environment, and advancing racial equity and social justice as its primary themes. Do you agree that these issues should be prioritized throughout the entire THRIVE 2050 plan?



Out of the three priorities, protecting the environment received the most support with majority of people agreeing that it should be a priority (55% strongly agreeing and 23% agreeing). Fostering a strong economy came in second (47% strongly agreeing and 30% agreeing), and racial equity and social justice came in third (42% strongly agreeing and 21% agreeing). Both fostering a strong economy and protecting the environment had fewer than 10% of participants who disagreed or strongly disagreed with these topics as priorities. However, a higher percentage of people disagreed with racial equity and social justice having to be a priority, with 23% disagreeing or strongly disagreeing that it should be a priority.

Within BIPOC respondents, the priorities slightly changed in preference. Fostering a strong economy came in first with 80% agreeing or strongly agreeing that it should be a priority; protecting the environment came in second with 70% of participants agreeing or strongly disagreeing that it was a priority. For racial equity and social justice, 58% of BIPOC participants agreed or strongly agreed with social justice and racial equity as priorities for Thrive 2050 . However, 28% also disagreed or strongly disagreed that racial equity and social justice should be considered priorities.



This section also focused on measuring public awareness and agreement surrounding Thrive 2050's focus planning areas, compact growth, complete communities, housing, transportation, design, arts & culture, parks & recreation. To gather this input, Question 5 (Q5) of the questionnaire asked:

Do the following six focus areas outlined in Thrive 2050 fit your vision for where the County should be going?

Planning areas	Doesn't fit my vision at all	Doesn't fit my vision	Neutral	Fits my Vision	Absolutely fits my vision	I don't understand what this is about
Parks and Recreation	4%	4%	13%	33%	45%	3%
Transportation and	7%	6%	13%	29%	43%	3%

Communications Network						
Housing for All	13%	11%	13%	19%	40%	4%
Design Arts and Culture	7%	6%	20%	35%	27%	4%
Compact Growth	15%	14%	14%	23%	25%	10%
Complete Communities	11%	14%	14%	22%	29%	13%

The top 3 areas that were identified as absolutely meeting participants' visions were Parks and Recreation, Housing for All, and Transportation and Communications Networks. Compact Growth, Complete Communities, and Housing for all received the highest percentage of participants labeling as not fitting their vision.

However, both compact growth and complete communities had the most responses for the option "I do not understand what this is about" (10% for compact growth and 13% for complete communities). For most participants that identified compact growth and complete communities as fitting their vision for the county, they usually paired their response with comments such "I don't understand what this is about, but I assume you mean more density" "complete communities are all these areas combined" "I think I know what you mean by this."

When designing the questionnaire, the planning concepts outlined on the plan were purposely used on the questionnaire because it sought to evaluate general understanding of the terminology used in the plan. Information from the focus groups [see section X], would supplement questionnaire responses in showing that Compact Growth, Complete Communities, and Design were concepts that were important to residents, but that were difficult to understand with the established language from the plan.

For this section, responses received from BIPOC participants match the consensus that Parks and Recreation, Transportation, and Housing for All are the planning concepts that most aligned with BIPOC participants' vision for the county. These participants also identified compact growth and complete communities as terms that they did not understand the most.

Planning areas	Doesn't fit my vision at all	Doesn't fit my vision	Neutral	Fits my Vision	Absolutely fits my vision	I don't understand what this is about
Parks and Recreation	5%	4%	12%	32%	45%	3%
Transportation and Communications Network	9%	8%	10%	26%	44%	4%
Housing for All	15%	12%	12%	19%	44%	4%
Design Arts and Culture	11%	8%	17%	31%	30%	4%
Compact Growth	20%	9%	13%	23%	24%	11%
Complete Communities	15%	8%	12%	23%	30%	13%

To

supplement this question, the following open-ended question (**Q6**) was asked to give participants the opportunity to talk about issues that Thrive 2050 might have missed:

Q6. *Are there other themes that are important to you but are not included in the question above?*

The most reoccurring answers to this question included:

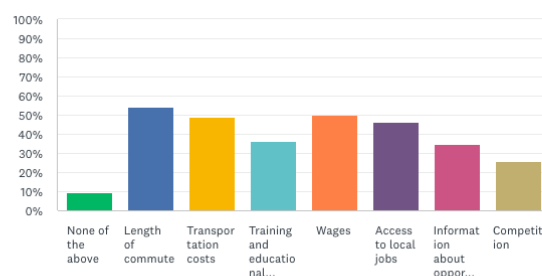
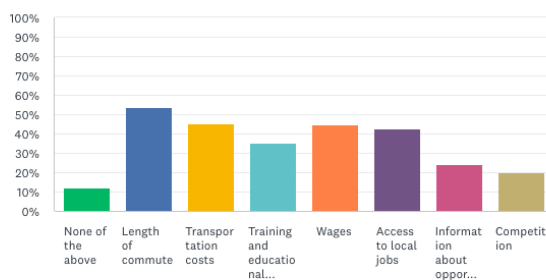
- Schools/education (78 responses)
- Equitable development throughout the county (38 mentions)
- Protecting current neighborhoods (37 responses).

Concerns within Thrive 2050 Focus Planning Areas:

In addition to asking participants how the planning concepts aligned with their vision of the county, the questionnaire incorporated 5 follow up questions (Q8 – Q12) to go more in-depth about

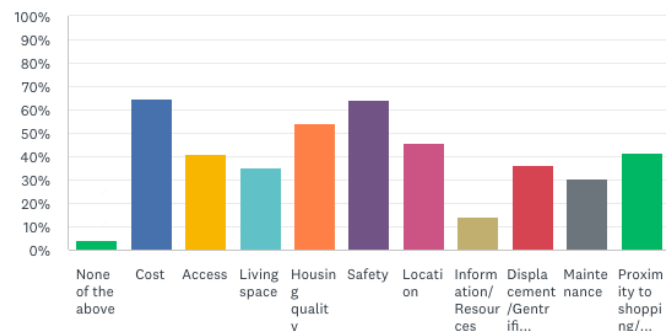
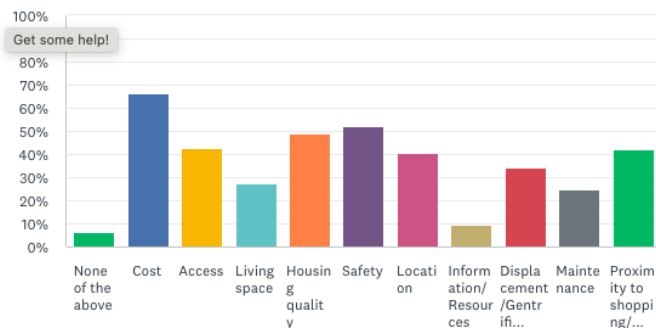
Jobs and Economic Opportunity

The primary concerns include length of commute (54%), Transportation Costs (45%), and Wages (45%), and Access to Local Jobs (42%). These concerns to be the ones of concern within BIPOC participants, however information about job opportunities and competition for jobs increased in prevalence within this population group with 35% and 26% of BIPOC participants reporting as an issue in comparison of the general 24% and 20% reported in the general findings.



Housing Concerns

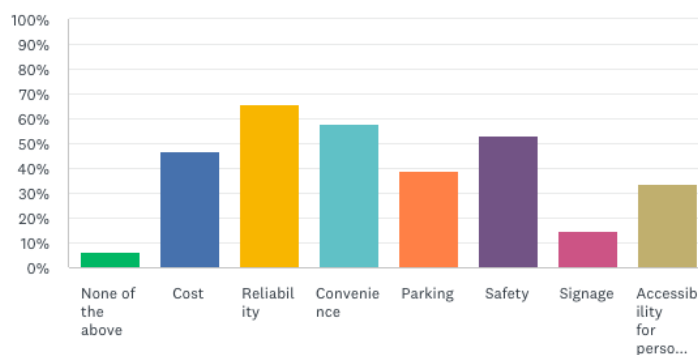
The primary housing concerns included cost (66%), Safety (52%), Housing Quality (48%), Access (43%). There were no significant differences in responses provided by BIPOC communities.



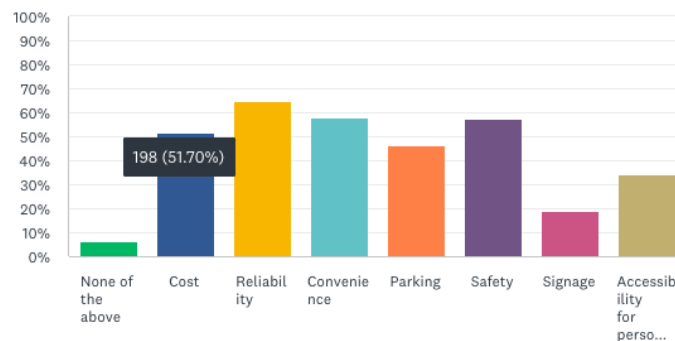
While displacement and gentrification were not in the top 4 concerns for housing, it continued to be a prominent issue identified by participants. In general, 32% of participants identified displacement as housing issue. Within participants from low-income backgrounds (Under \$15,000 and \$15,000-49,999) this number increased to 36% and 37% within participants with incomes between \$50,000 – \$74,999. For those with higher incomes, 31% saw displacement and gentrification as housing concerns.

Transportation Concerns

The top transportation concerns included reliability (66%), Convenience (58%), Safety (53%), and Cost (47%). It is important to emphasize that while accessibility for people with disabilities was not within the top 4 concerns in this area, 33% of participants (459 people), identified this being a primary issue for them when using transportation.

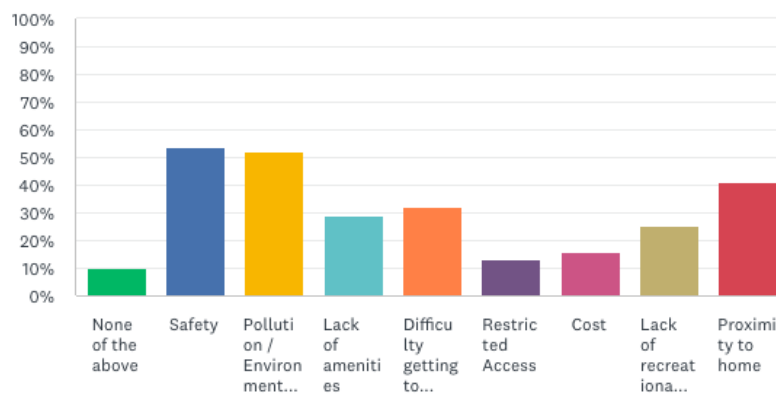


Responses from BIPOC communities identify the same top concerns of reliability (65%), convenience (58%), safety (57%), and cost (52%). However, parking seems to be a more significant issue within BIPOC communities (47% in comparison to 38% from the general responses).

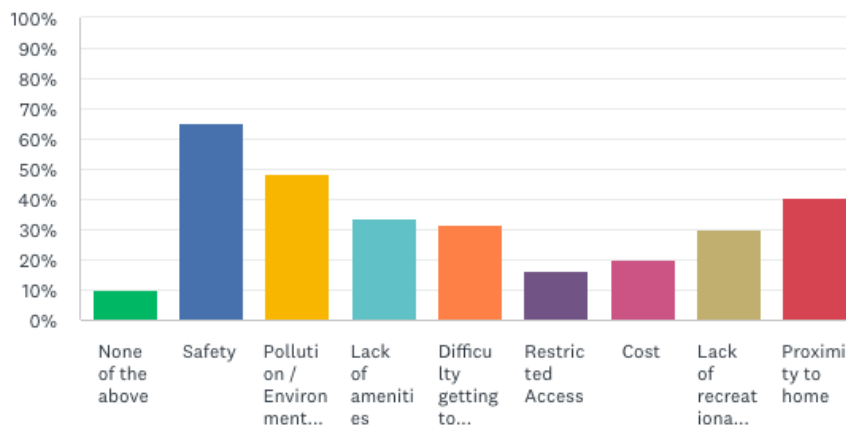


Parks and Public Spaces

For parks and public spaces, the top concerns included safety (54%), pollution (52%), proximity to home (41%) and difficulty getting to parks/public spaces (32%).



The concerns for BIPOC participants are similar, but this was the area where there was the most difference in responses provided by BIPOC participants. Safety was identified as a concern by 65% of BIPOC participants, an 11% percentage difference from the general results findings. Pollution (49%) and proximity to home (41%) continued to be big problems, however, lack of amenities became fourth top concern in this group.



Q12 asked participants to add any other concerns that were critical for them but that were not listed in any of the areas above. Responses included:

- Increasing lack of parking
- Lack of safe and convenient biking infrastructure and amenities
- Climate Resilient Parks (more shade, more splash parks, more seating)
- Lack of Park Maintenance
- Homes and Reliable infrastructure for people with disabilities
- Lack of Housing
- Moving away from single-family housing/neighborhoods
- Crime and Safety
- Overcrowded Schools

For this question, responses from BIPOC communities primarily focused on:

- Crime
- Safety
- Overcrowded neighborhoods
- High Taxes
- Increasing access to housing

In this section, **affordability and safety** continue to be the issues that were prominent throughout all these areas and the open-ended responses. Open ended responses show that participants are getting more uncomfortable being outside their homes for recreational or commuting purposes. These questionnaire responses correlate with information received during the focus groups, which identified participants feeling less confident about their transportation and recreational resources because of lack of safety. Safety issues also continue

to be the primary topic within BIPOC responses in this section of the questionnaire, as well as a guiding topic in the focus group discussions.

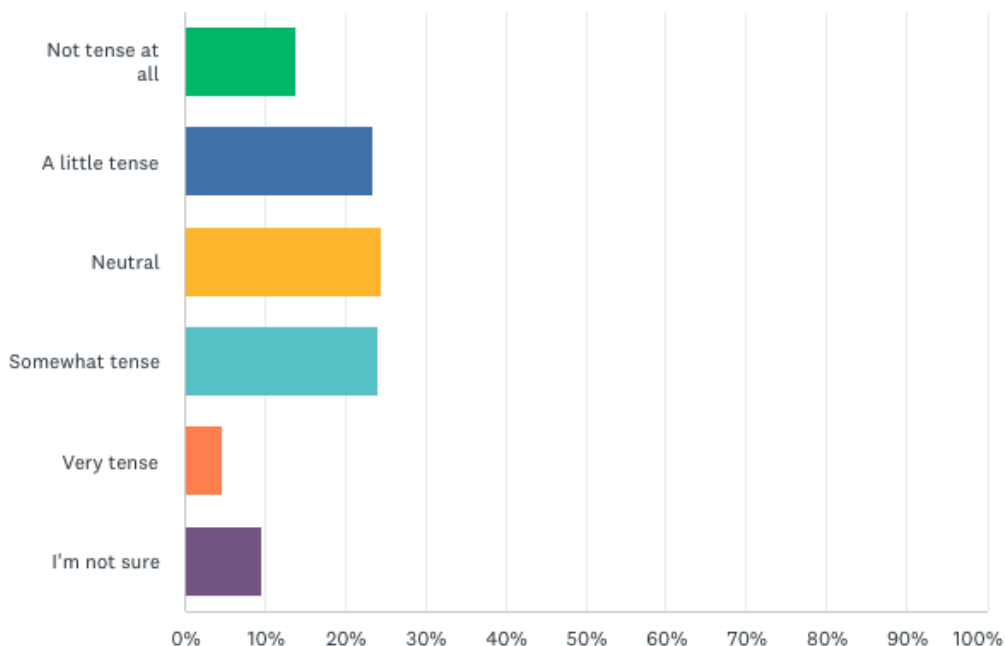
Section 2: Race, Discrimination, and Equity Section [Q14 – Q19]

The Race, Discrimination, and Equity section asked participants to rate race relationships in Montgomery County, share their experience with discrimination in the county, and offer input about the level of public services that their neighborhoods provide to them. The questions that were part of these section included:

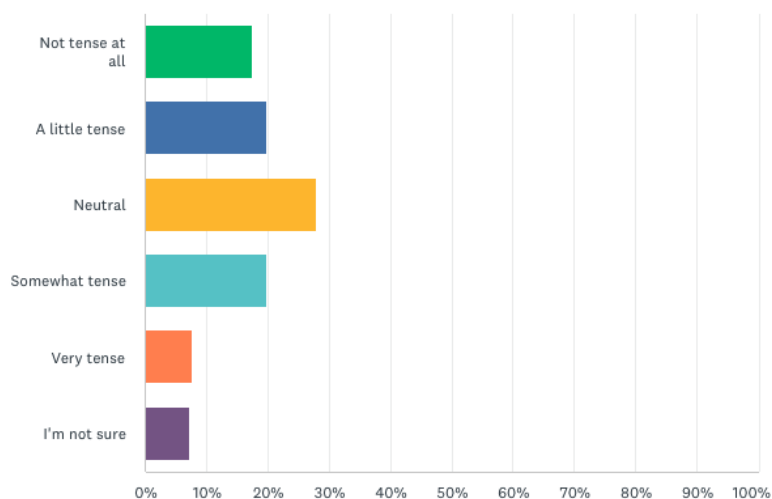
- *Q13: To what extent do you agree that Montgomery County has offered good opportunities for you to get ahead economically?*
- *Q14: In comparison to other neighborhoods in the County, how do you rate your neighborhoods' availability of County services, such as libraries, parks, community centers, schools, and public safety.*
- *Q15: Do you agree with the following statement? My neighborhood can safely and conveniently meet all of the needs of our household.*
- *Q16: How would you rate race relations in Montgomery County?*
- *Q17: Have you ever experienced discrimination based on your ethnicity in Montgomery County?*

Responses from Q19 (From 1-10, how high of a priority should it be for government to address racial equity gaps in education, criminal justice, jobs, health, housing, and other areas?), the average response was 6. This was the average number across the general response pool and responses from BIPOC participants.

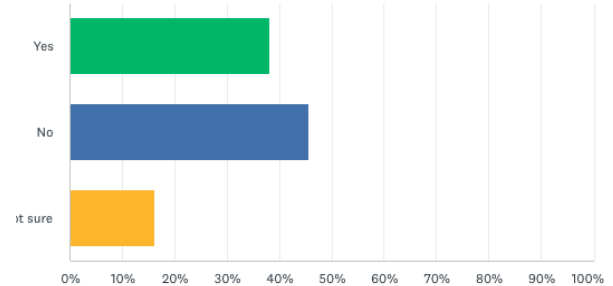
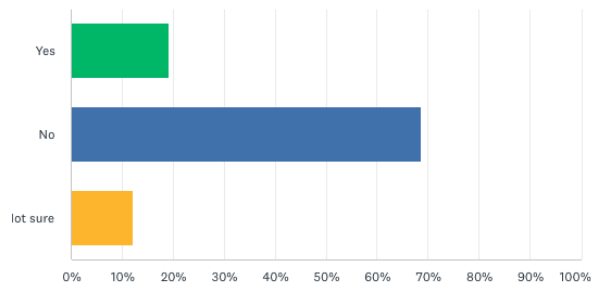
Regarding race relations, participants were asked the question *How would you rate race relations in Montgomery County?* (Q16). 24% of participants identified feeling neutral when asked to rate race relations in Montgomery County, while 23% of participants identified race tensions being a little tense and 24% identified that race relations were somewhat tense. 14%



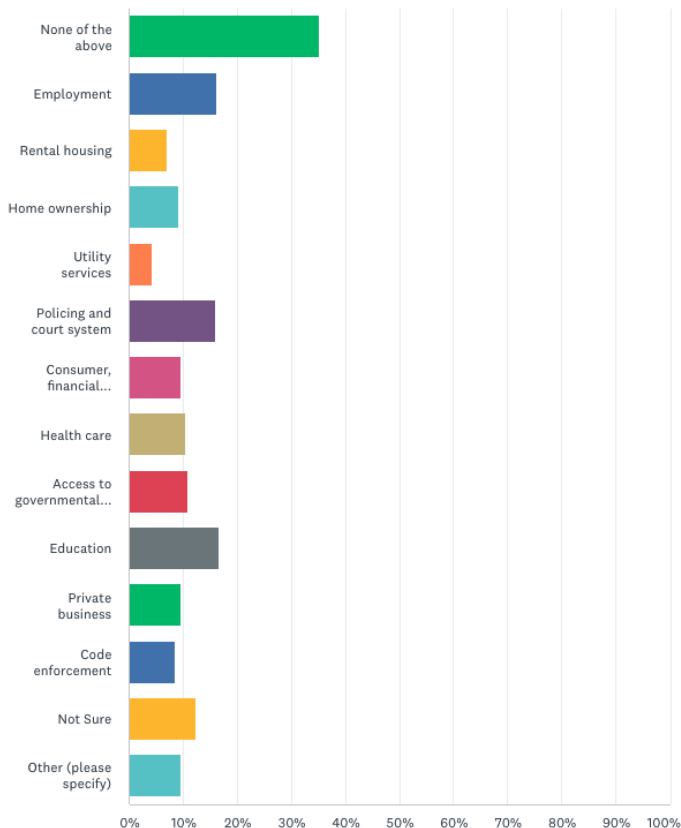
of participants identified race relations not being tense at all and only 5% identified being very tense. Responses within the BIPOC respondents do not show significant differences in this area. 17% of these respondents identified race relations not being tense at all and 8% reporting that race relations were very tense.



However, when asked if participant had experienced discrimination in the county based on their ethnicity or race **[Q17]**, responses from BIPOC communities show more significant differences than the general response numbers from the questionnaire. Overall, 19% identified having experienced discrimination in the county, while 69% said no. These numbers change within BIPOC respondents 38% responding yes and 46% responding no.

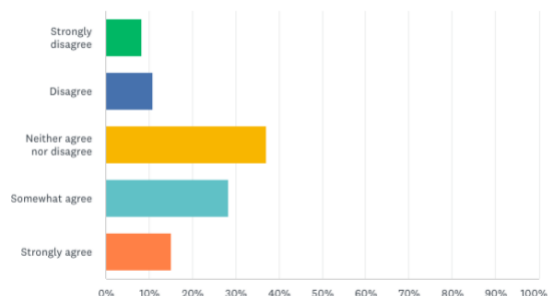
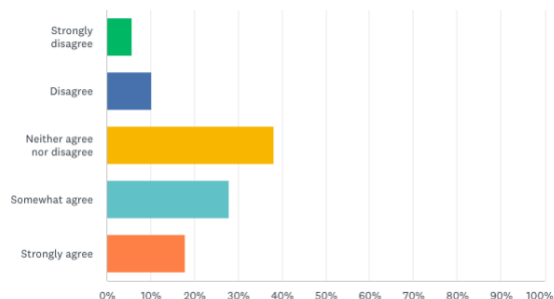


When asked the areas where participants have faced discrimination **[Q18]** BIPOC participants identified employment (16%), Education (17%), policing and court system (16%), and access to governmental resources (11%) as the primary areas.

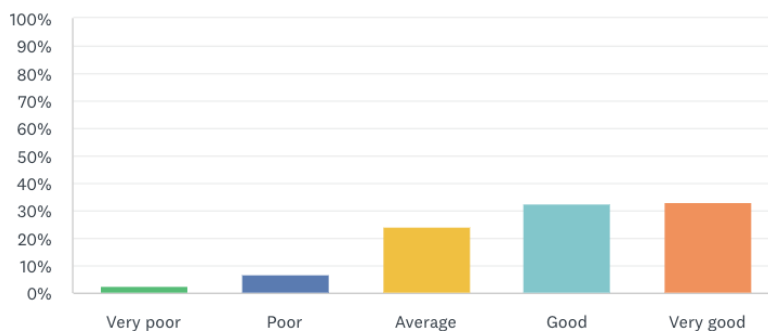


Other questions were asked to identify other equity issues that would directly or indirectly impact the primary planning focus areas identified on Thrive 2050.

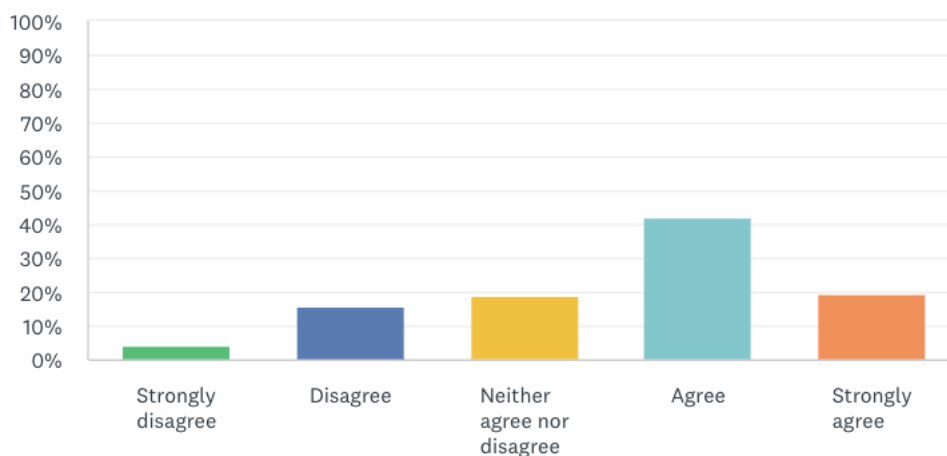
[Q13] asked participants to what extent they agreed that Montgomery County had offered them good opportunities to get ahead economically. For this question, 38% felt neutral about the statement, 18% strongly agreed, 28% strongly agreed, 11% disagreed, and 6% strongly disagreed. Within the BIPOC respondents, the significance was not different. 38% of BIPOC respondents felt neutral about this question. But 15% strongly agreed with the statement and 28% somewhat agreed. 11% of participants disagreed with the statement and 8% strongly disagreed.



Participants were also asked about their experience receiving public resources in their neighborhoods. Q14 asked participants “in comparison to other neighborhoods in the county, how do you rate your neighborhoods’ availability of County services, such as libraries, parks, community centers, schools, and public safety?” Responses showed 38% feeling neutral about this question, while 46% either somewhat agreed or disagreed with the statement. Only 15% disagreed with the statement.



Similar responses were shared for question Q15 which asked if their neighborhood safely and conveniently met all their needs. 62% agreed with this statement.



Section 3: Demographic Information

The Thrive 2050 Community Questionnaire was taken by 1860 people. The questionnaire asked a series of demographic questions to help identify the background of participants. While all participants completed the questions sections of the questionnaire, only 1308 participants completed the demographic section of the questionnaire. The self-reporting demographic information shows the following demographic breakdown for participants.

City and Town

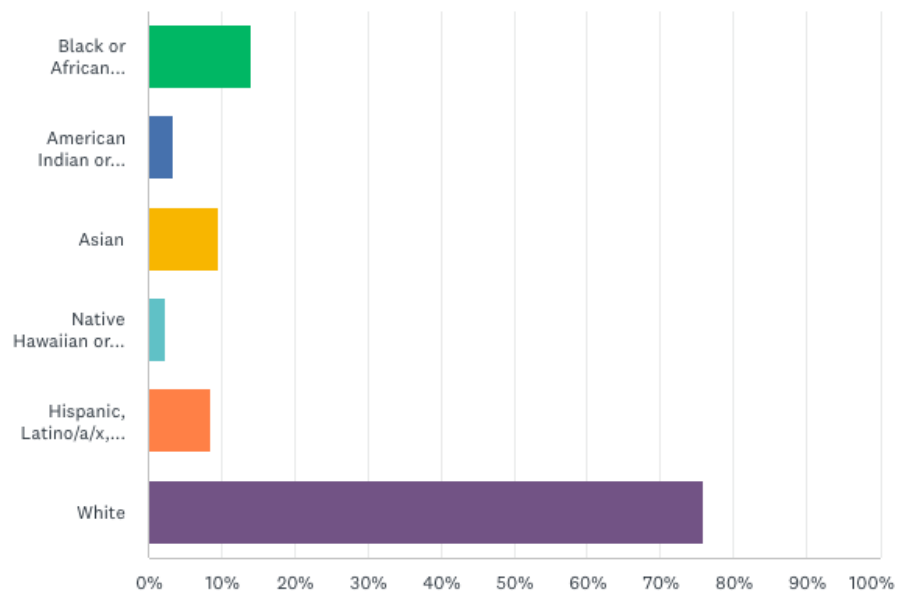
<i>Silver Spring</i>	<i>410</i>
<i>Bethesda</i>	<i>133</i>
<i>Rockville</i>	<i>114</i>
<i>Chevy Chase</i>	<i>89</i>
<i>Gaithersburg</i>	<i>85</i>
<i>Wheaton</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>Takoma Park</i>	<i>64</i>
<i>Kensington</i>	<i>37</i>
<i>Germantown</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Olney</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Montgomery Village</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>MD</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Aspen Hill</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>North Bethesda</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Potomac</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Burtonsville</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Clarksburg</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Town Chevy</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Brookeville</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>North Potomac</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Colesville</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Damascus</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Derwood</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Somerset</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Glenmont</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Leesport</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Boyds</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Poolesville</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Town</i>	<i>6</i>

Race and Country of Origin

A totally of 1282 people decided to report their race. The breakdown by race was the following:

White: 976
Black or African American: 181
American Indian or Alaska Native: 45
Asian: 124
Native Hawaiian or another Pacific Islander: 31
Hispanic: 111
No Race given: 514

Total BIPOC: 492



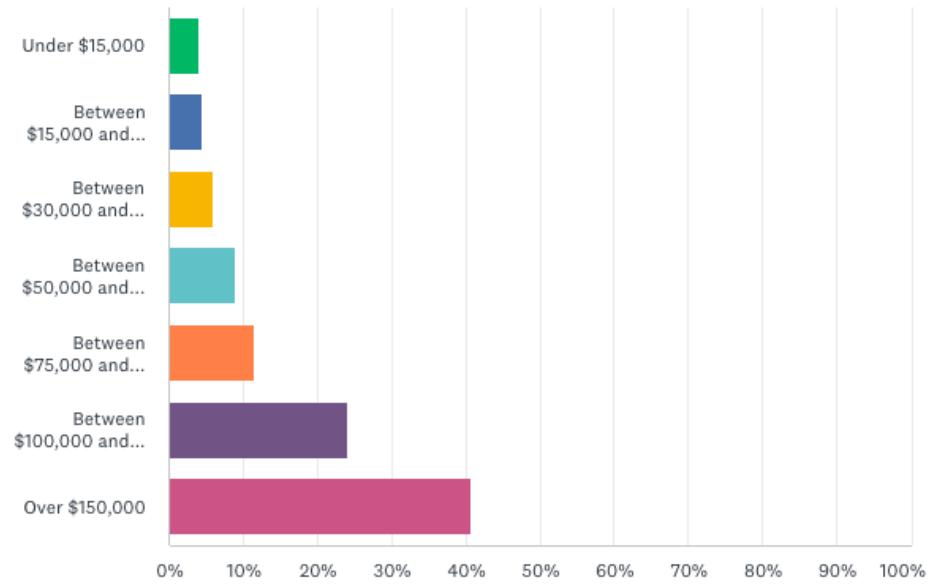
Countries of Nationality

USA
Peru
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Vietnam
Colombia
Venezuela
Greece
Cuba
Russia
Mexico
Pakistan
Scotland
India

France
Honduras
Brazil
China
United Kingdom
Ukraine
Canada
Czech Republic
Latin American Country immigrant
Somewhere in the Caribbean
Guatemala
Haiti
Iran
Guinea Conarky
Sierra Leonek
Somalia
Japan
Germany
Italy
Eritrea
Trinidad

Income

1287 participants reported their income from 2020.



Under 15,000: 53

Between \$15,00 and \$29,999: 58

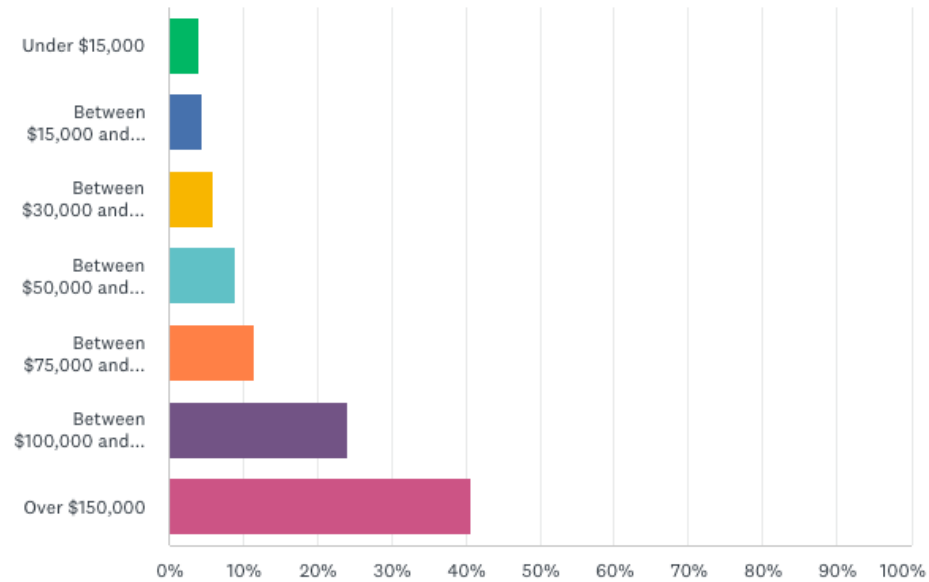
Between \$30,00 and \$49,00: 78

Between \$50,000 and \$74,999: 115

Between \$75,000 and \$99,999: 149

Between \$100,000 and \$150,000: 310

Over \$150,000: 524



Housing status:

1287 participants reported their housing status. 157 reported renting, 1034 owning, 83 living with family and friends, 3 being unhoused, and 10 reporting Other/living in assisted living or retirement community.

