



NEWS

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Montco Adopts New Comprehensive Plan

Norristown, PA (January 15, 2015) – The Montgomery County Commissioners today unanimously adopted *Montco 2040: A Shared Vision*, a new comprehensive plan that sets a future vision for the county. The plan, which will shape the future of Montgomery County to the year 2040, contains important goals and a future land use plan.

“Montco 2040 will truly be a shared vision, one that was created with the input of Montgomery County residents, our hard-working steering committee, and our talented planning staff. This will be a living document that won’t just sit on a shelf, but will play a major role in creating the Montgomery County citizens would like to see take shape over the next few decades,” said Josh Shapiro, Chair of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners.

The plan contains three major themes: Connected Communities, Sustainable Places, and Vibrant Economy. These themes were developed after analyzing current conditions and emerging trends and incorporating input received from thousands of residents and a diverse 28-member steering committee.

The Connected Communities theme focuses on the public’s expressed desire to be connected and part of a broader community. A key role for the county is to help these connections occur beyond local municipal boundaries. Topics in this theme include collaboration among stakeholders, improved transportation choices, trails and greenways that connect multiple places, and vibrant downtowns and destinations.

The Sustainable Places theme looks at the many wonderful neighborhoods and communities in the county and the existing natural environment. It focuses on the need for these places to be sustained and enhanced in a long-lasting and effective way. Theme topics include modernized infrastructure

network, improved stormwater management, protected natural resources, opportunities for healthy lifestyles, diverse housing choices, and enhanced community character.

The Vibrant Economy theme focuses on the critical importance of a strong economy for all places in the county. With a vibrant economy, residents can earn and spend more, governments can make needed infrastructure improvements, and businesses can grow. Theme topics include improved transportation access, focused development, attraction and retention of businesses, flexibly adapting to changing market conditions, and marketing of assets.

The comprehensive plan, which took approximately two years to complete, involved extensive outreach to citizens, businesses, organizations, community leaders, and municipal officials. These efforts included eight public meetings, presentations to interested groups upon request, a survey completed by over 2,500 residents, a dynamic website, videos, a webinar for municipal officials, a photo contest, wide distribution of draft plan versions, and a public hearing on the final draft plan.

“This plan’s result, this plan’s strength, comes from this mixture of process ingredients,” said Karen Stout, chair of the comprehensive plan steering committee and president of Montgomery County Community College. “It is this mixture that will help the county to ensure that the result is a living document that truly informs and aligns our work as citizens, business leaders, community volunteers, educators, and government leaders into the future to build an even stronger Montgomery County.”

Montco 2040: A Shared Vision; Montgomery Today, the background document for the plan; an executive summary, 2015 implementation actions, and other information are available at www.montcopa.org/Montco2040. Contact: Brian O’Leary boleary@montcopa.org or 610-278-3728.