



# NEWS

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## **Montgomery County's New Comprehensive Plan Receives National Award**

**Norristown, PA (May 1, 2015)** – *Montco 2040: A Shared Vision*, Montgomery County's new comprehensive plan, received a national award from the American Planning Association (APA), County Planning Division (CPD) and its sister organization, the National Association of County Planners (NACP). The plan received an Award of Merit in the Comprehensive Plan – Large Jurisdiction category on April 19 as part of the APA National Conference in Seattle, Washington.

*Montco 2040: A Shared Vision*, adopted by the Montgomery County Commissioners in January 2015, is an exceptional plan that will shape the future of Montgomery County to the year 2040. 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. Theme topics 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. Theme topics include a 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. 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 took approximately two years to complete and involved extensive outreach to citizens, businesses, organizations, community leaders, and municipal officials. Over 2,500 citizens participated in the development of the plan, which is now in the process of implementation.

*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](http://www.montcopa.org/Montco2040).

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