



NEWS

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Montco Seeks Public Feedback on Walkability Improvements

Norristown, PA (June 2, 2015) – Montgomery County has begun an exciting new initiative—Walk Montco—which is aimed at making communities safer and more attractive for walking. This initiative will ultimately result in the development of a countywide walkability plan.

An important part of this process involves public feedback on where walkability improvements are needed most. The county would like to know what changes could be made to make walking easier. The Montgomery County Planning Commission (MCPC) has developed a new, user-friendly online map that offers residents and visitors an opportunity to provide this feedback. Comments can include a variety of information such as identifying places where sidewalks end abruptly or crosswalks don't align, intersections where vehicles travel too fast, and places where pedestrian connections to important destinations are needed. In addition to providing comments on the map, participants can also upload photos.

“This is a great opportunity for residents and visitors to identify challenges to walking in Montco communities. The county's new walkability plan will focus on health and safety, connections to popular destinations, and more vibrant places,” said Jody L. Holton, AICP, Executive Director of the Montgomery County Planning Commission.

The online map also takes a closer look at four areas that have partnered with MCPC on this initiative: Hatfield Borough's downtown, a commercial stretch of Germantown Pike in Lafayette Hill, the area around SEPTA's Noble train station in Abington, and the Cheltenham Elementary School.

The new countywide walkability plan is scheduled to be released at a public workshop on October 26, 2015 in Ambler Borough. The event will feature national experts who will provide information about

proven strategies that have been used around the country to enable more pedestrian mobility. Visit www.montcopa.org/PlanningSmarter to register for the workshop and to sign up for other exciting planning events in Montgomery County.

Walk Montco is supported by a Transportation and Community Development Initiative (TCDI) grant and is part of the implementation of *Montco 2040: A Shared Vision*, the county's new, nationally awarded comprehensive plan.

The new online map is available at <http://wikimapping.net/wikimap/walkmontco.html>. The map is also available at www.montcopa.org/WalkMontco along with more information about walkability in Montgomery County. For more information, please contact Anne Leavitt-Gruberger at 610-278-3727 or via email at aleavitt@montcopa.org.