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## How to testify on Thrive Montgomery 2050:

On the evening of November 19th, the Montgomery County Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the draft update to the general plan, called Thrive Montgomery 2050. Read the draft [here](#). This is your chance to make your voice heard about the issues that matter to you, including land use, growth, housing, and transit.

### **Sign up to testify in advance:**

- Sign up online [here](#) and select which item you want to speak on. Example: “November 19 - Item X - Thrive Montgomery 2050”
- Provide your information:
  - You’ll be asked to provide your name, address, phone, and email.
  - Subject of testimony: Thrive 2050
  - Group represented: not applicable
  - Speaker Type: Individual
  - Is your testimony in support of any other individual or group testifying at this meeting? No
  - Do you need the ability to share a presentation live during your testimony? No
- Sign up begins 10 days before the hearing date, which will be **Thursday, November 19th, 2020**. Slots fill up quickly, so don’t wait to sign up. You must however, sign up before 12pm on the Wednesday prior to the hearing, which would be **Wednesday, November 18th**.
- Submit your written testimony for the official record! Send written testimony by emailing [MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:MCP-Chair@mncppc-mc.org), by 12 noon on the Wednesday before the meeting.
- Your written testimony can be as long as you want! Create an abridged version for when you speak at the public hearing.

### **What to expect when testifying:**

- On the day of the hearing, you’ll receive an email with call-in information, including what time to call.
- When you call, a friendly staff member will check you in!
- After that, go on mute and wait.
- Once the public hearing begins, the Chair (Casey Anderson) will call people’s names.

- You will unmute (press star-6) and begin your testimony. You have three minutes!
- If you go over three minutes, the Chair may cut you off.
- A good rule to remember is BLUF: bottom line up front. After introducing yourself and thanking the Planning Board for their time, state your main point.
- Maintain a respectful, positive tone; declare your overall support for the Plan; and suggest your desired improvements.

### **Guide to writing testimony:**

- Introduction:
  - Say thank you
  - State your name and where you live
  - Make the main point you want the decision makers to hear
- Body:
  - Strike a balance between real-life data, evidence, and examples, as well as your own personal experiences and stories.
  - Because you only have 3 minutes to give in-person testimony, carefully choose the most relevant evidence and experiences to support your stance.
  - When writing, consider a guiding question like: how will this measure impact me and my community?
- Conclusion:
  - Summarize your main points
  - Restate your position
  - Say thank you again

### **Suggestions for Thrive 2050 testimony:**

View our full testimony workshop presentation [here](#), including a breakdown of what we're excited about and what we'd like to see included in Thrive 2050.

Generally, we're excited about embracing sustainable urbanism; evolving single-family neighborhoods near transit; creating more diverse, mixed-income communities; planning for people instead of cars; and making the county more affordable.