
Hello,

My name is Zoey Solomon, and I am a resident of Rockville, Maryland. I am 19 years old, and have been living in the area for 5 years now. I am in support of the policies outlined in Thrive 2050, and believe it is necessary in order to have a more equitable county for future generations. As a young person, what pertains to me the most in the plan is an increased focus on public transportation, as well as greater access to parks and other green spaces.

Having easily accessible, timely, and affordable public transportation allows for a safe and environmentally conscious option for those who are unable to drive, such as myself. Current policies, such as the fare reduction that was implemented as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, has made it easier to use public transportation, and could incentivize riders if implemented long-term.

I also believe it is important to increase the amount of walk-able cities and parks in our county, to help strengthen the bonds within communities. I grew up in Baltimore City, and lived across the street from Patterson Park. With 137 total acres, it not only provided a place for children to play, but allowed for numerous cultural events to take place such as a lantern parade. I still fondly remember the times I spent there as a child, and would like future generations to have the same experiences I did.

Therefore, I urge you to support the Planning Board's draft of Thrive 350, while increasing equity and sustainability for all residents.

Thank you,
Zoey Solomon