

Lucy Moore

AIA

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Takoma Park, MD 20912

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Montgomery County Council

100 Maryland Avenue
3rd Floor Council Hearing Room
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear County Council,

I am writing to voice my full support of Thrive Montgomery 2050, specifically its focus on community equity and environmental resilience achieved through improved housing, transportation, and land use policies. I support many aspects of Thrive Montgomery 2050, but would specifically like to address the concerns being voiced by some homeowners that Thrive threatens the county and their single family home neighborhoods.

I am a preservation architect with a masters in both architecture and historic preservation. The arguments being put forward about preserving community character by blocking more, denser housing, are based on limited readings of historic preservation as a policy tool. These predominantly white homeowners are using preservation as a cover for individualistic conclusions grounded in decades of racially inequitable housing policy. In short, preserving a community does not mean continuing to preserve the systems of inequity that helped to create it. Instead, it can be a policy tool through which all community members, not just homeowners, can participate in discussions about our collective values, where we have come from - good and bad, and where we want to go.

Sincerely,

Lucy Moore, AIA