

My name is Mirele Goldsmith. I live in downtown Bethesda, in walking distance from Bethesda Metro Station. While I'm here as an individual, I'm proud to report that I am involved with Adat Shalom Reconstructionist Congregation's Climate Action Team, which raised my awareness about the importance of Thrive 2050.

As a religious Jew, I try to live my life in accordance with the teachings of my faith as I understand them. I believe I have an obligation to care for the earth that gives me life, and to love my neighbors by pursuing justice. So to me, supporting the goals of THRIVE 2050 is a moral imperative.

I wholeheartedly support the goals of THRIVE 2050 that will put Montgomery County on a path to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions while advancing equity.

I support compact development and investment in public services along growth corridors to make walking, biking, and mass transit more feasible so that we can reduce reliance on fossil fuels that are causing climate devastation.

I do not have a car and rely on the inadequate public transportation in MOCO. Usually, I am the only white person on board when I ride the bus. This has made me aware of who really bears the burden of sprawl and prioritizing private cars over every other type of transportation.

I also support more market rate and subsidized housing to make MOCO affordable and to help to address the shameful legacy of redlining.

Please note that I live in an area that will be directly impacted by increased density and I support these policies.

Please move as fast as you can to implement Thrive 2050 to improve the lives of everyone who lives in our County, and heal the atmosphere that gives life to us, our children, and all living things.

Thank you