



BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE REGIONAL SERVICES CENTER

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Peter C. Fosselman
Director

October 24th, 2022

Gabe Albornoz
President, Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Ave
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Albornoz,

The Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board is writing to express our concern about the Council's recent vote establishing River Road as a growth corridor in the Thrive 2050 plan. As River Road is in the area served by the WMCCAB, we would have hoped that the Council would consult with us on such a momentous change. Our members live in these neighborhoods, and we could have offered important insights into the experiences, values, and desires of residents along River Road.

For example, at our October meeting, CAB members questioned why the county is seeking greater population density in an area without strong public transportation options or safe corridors for pedestrians or cyclists. Fixing these problems – with transit investments, sidewalks, and protected bike lanes – should happen before even considering greater housing density.

River Road neighborhoods also will face environmental issues stemming from this decision, including increased storm water runoff caused by new development. The Council must address the massive infrastructure investments required to remediate these issues.

With these concerns in mind, we respectfully ask the Council for two things:

- Consultation. The development along River Road is not yet underway, so we request that the Council engage with us on this – and any other – decisions affecting our region.
- Reconsideration. We ask the Council to reconsider its decision to approve River Road as a growth corridor by delaying the Thrive 2050 vote and disapprove the current plan until you undertake meaningful engagement with our Board.

We look forward to working with the Council as we all work together to ensure a strong, prosperous future for our community.

Best regards,

Kristen Nelson, Chair, Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board

C Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board
C Ken Hartman
C Peter Fosselman