



M A R Y L A N D

Office of Planning and Zoning

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Planning and Zoning Officer

December 1, 2022

The Honorable Steuart Pittman, County Executive
Anne Arundel County
Arundel Center, P.O. Box 2700
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

RE: Plan2040 Implementation Advisory
Committee Fall 2022 Recommendations

Dear County Executive Pittman:

The Plan2040 Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) is a citizen advisory board created by Plan2040, Anne Arundel County's General Development Plan, and consisting of members from established County Boards and Committees. The IAC is charged with monitoring the progress of Plan2040, ensuring transparency and accountability, and providing guidance to the County Executive, County Council, and County staff regarding implementation of the General Development Plan. The IAC may also provide guidance and recommendations on budget matters necessary to carry out implementation activities.

The IAC met on October 22, 2022 and received an overview of the status of implementing the various strategies from Plan2040, including key indicators and recent trends. The IAC was then tasked with discussing priority challenges and opportunities throughout the County. Following these discussions, staff from County departments and partner agencies identified key challenges and opportunities for their office. The IAC provided the following recommendations to guide the County's work to achieve the goals set forth in Plan2040.

IAC Recommendations for Plan2040 Implementation

The IAC discussion focused on several key topics that are highlighted in Plan2040, including transportation, housing, infrastructure, school capacity, and parks. One fundamental issue wove through each of these topics: equity and the need to identify and rectify the explicit and implicit policy choices that have contributed to the disparities across different communities in Anne Arundel County.

1. **Transportation:** The IAC recommends that the County continue to make targeted investments, in partnership with State and regional transportation agencies, to increase

reliable public transit and safe environments for walking and biking, with a focus on expanding service for low income communities and connecting residents to employment centers and schools.

2. **Affordable Housing:** The IAC recommends the County continue to reform the Zoning Code, Zoning Map, Subdivision and Development Code, create financial incentives, and increase public investments to support housing diversity and promote housing affordability. It is important to note that housing choice and affordability are foundational factors that exacerbate transportation and economic issues, since many workers cannot afford to live near where they work and have no feasible option but to drive long distances, which also contributes to household financial strain and child care challenges.
3. **Resilient Infrastructure:** The IAC supports efforts, including establishment of the Resilience Authority, to invest in public infrastructure and programming to support the needs of a growing population that is faced with changing weather patterns and sea level rise.
4. **School Capacity:** The IAC recommends the County move forward with reforms to the adequate public facilities ordinance for schools to align growth management and school investment policies. The IAC also commends the Board of Education for adopting new policy to conduct Countywide comprehensive redistricting to balance school capacity and enrollment; and for efforts to ensure that all children in the County have an opportunity to attend a good school regardless of where they live.
5. **Parks and Open Space:** The IAC supports the decades-long efforts to preserve rural and natural lands in the County, and increased investments and partnerships that provide more recreation opportunities in North and West County. The IAC also supports focusing efforts, such as increasing tree canopy and providing innovative amenity types, to fill gaps for underserved communities and vulnerable populations.

The IAC appreciates this opportunity to provide you with its recommendations on Plan2040 implementation.

If there are any questions regarding our recommendation, please contact Michael Stringer in the Office of Planning and Zoning, pzstri20@aacounty.org.

Sincerely,
Plan2040 Implementation Advisory Committee

CC: Pete Baron, Director of Government Relations, Office of the County Executive
Matt Power, Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive
Chris Trumbauer, Budget Officer, Office of the County Executive
Members of the Implementation Advisory Committee
Laura Corby, Administrative Officer, Anne Arundel County Council
Steve Kaii-Ziegler, Planning and Zoning Officer, Office of Planning & Zoning
Christina Pompa, Deputy Planning and Zoning Officer, Planning Division, OPZ
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