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Jenny B. Dempsey
Planning and Zoning Officer



March 20, 2024

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

Re: Plan2040 Implementation Advisory Committee 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 consists 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 the 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 February 29, 2024, and received an overview from the leadership of multiple County departments on the status of implementing the various strategies from Plan2040 related to priorities identified by the IAC in their October 2022 meeting. Following these presentations the IAC reviewed those priorities and discussed refinements. 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 affirmed their topic priority focus areas for County policy, projects, and programs. The IAC emphasized the continued effort to address equity issues in each of these topics.

1. **Affordable Housing:** Providing adequate supply and diversity of housing for people to be able to afford to live and work in Anne Arundel County continues to be a top priority. It affects nearly every other aspect of Plan2040 and people's lives. The IAC recommends the County continue to work on updates to the Zoning Code, Zoning Map, Subdivision, and Development Code, create financial incentives, and increase public investments to support housing diversity and promote housing affordability. The IAC supports the development of housing in areas with services and amenities to create compact, complete communities where people can live, work, learn, and play. The IAC encourages the County to partner with local employers and expand efforts to educate the public about existing resources to support renters and homeowners. The IAC also recommends the County continue to work with partners to increase the availability of quality, affordable child care.

2. **Transportation:** The IAC commends the expansion and increased reliability, accessibility, and flexibility of transit options in the County. 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. These efforts should focus on expanding services for low-income communities and connecting residents to employment centers and schools.
3. **School Capacity:** The IAC commends the County Council for adopting 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 the Phase I Redistricting Plan for North County and supports the completion of Phase 2 for South County. The IAC encourages the County to continue to work with families and partners, including Fort George G. Meade, to invest in our schools so that all children in the County have an opportunity to attend a good school regardless of where they live.
4. **Resilient Infrastructure:** The IAC supports the creation of the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County and the efforts made to date to coordinate and leverage federal and State grants to make the County more resilient to changing weather patterns and sea level rise. The IAC also recommends the County incorporate climate change considerations into emergency response planning and work to enhance the key role that local food production and community connectivity play in resiliency.
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 commends the County for investing in the reuse of existing buildings, like the former Giant in Edgewater and Deep Run Park in Hanover, to meet recreation and childcare needs.

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:

Janssen Evelyn, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Office of the County Executive

Jenny Dempsey, Planning and Zoning Officer, Office of Planning & Zoning

Chris Trumbauer, Budget Officer, Office of the County Executive

Christina Pompa, Deputy Planning and Zoning Officer, Planning Division, OPZ

Laura Corby, Administrative Officer, Anne Arundel County Council

Cindy Carrier, Planning Administrator, Long Range Planning Section, OPZ

Members of the Implementation Advisory Committee

Michael Stringer, Senior Planner, OPZ