Montco 2040, the comprehensive plan for Montgomery County was adopted in January 2015. This report is an update on implementation actions. It highlights major achievements in implementing the plan that took place in 2015, and provides a number of implementation actions that will take place in 2016. Many goals will be implemented directly by the county, but many will also be implemented by the county’s partners, such as local municipalities, PennDOT, the Turnpike Commission, SEPTA, and other government agencies.
Montco 2040: A Shared Vision is designed around three interrelated themes.

Connected Communities
People want to be connected and part of a broader community. A key role for the county is to help these connections occur beyond local municipal boundaries.

Sustainable Places
The county is full of wonderful neighborhoods and communities. These places need to be sustained and enhanced in a long-lasting and effective way.

Vibrant Economy
A strong economy is critical for all places. With a vibrant economy, residents can earn and spend more, governments can make needed infrastructure improvements, and businesses can grow.
GOAL  Encourage collaboration and partnerships among governments, businesses, institutions, schools, higher education, and other stakeholders

2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Completed 3 school district enrollment projection studies during 2015.
- Maintained 31 municipal planning contracts and 4 regional planning contracts.
- Presented the Montco 2040 plan to municipalities, regional planning associations, county departments, and various other organizations.
- All 8 municipalities endorsed the Turnpike Corridor Reinvestment Study.

2016 IMPLEMENTATION

- Sustain a pioneering partnership with the county, Natural Lands Trust and 24 municipalities for a regional greenway study.
- Conduct school district enrollment studies.
- Assist the county’s municipalities with their planning work.

GOAL  Improve transportation quality and expand options for county residents and workers

2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Secured commitment for the design and construction of the Lafayette Street Turnpike Interchange in Norristown.
- Upper Merion Township installed adaptive traffic signal technology.
- SEPTA opened its first new train station in two decades in Lansdale.
- Prepared Walk Montco, a new walkability plan for the county.
- Health Department conducted outreach and education on pedestrian and bicycle safety issues at local elementary schools.

2016 IMPLEMENTATION

- Continue the Lafayette Street Turnpike Interchange project.
- Perform walkability audits for municipalities and school districts.
- Implement Walk Montco.
- Advocate for a complete streets policy on county roads.
- Begin the bus shelter initiative pilot project.
- Oversee the design of Ridge Pike Improvement Project in Whitemarsh, Springfield, and Plymouth.
- Go to county elementary schools to encourage biking and bike safety.
2016 IMPLEMENTATION

**GOAL** Expand and connect county trails, local trails, greenways, natural areas, and parks

**2015 ACHIEVEMENTS**
- 2.7 additional miles of the Pennypack Trail opened.
- West Schuylkill River towpath restored and opened; West Schuylkill River Trail constructed in Upper Merion Township.
- Started new bikeshare program on county trails.
- Placed new artwork along the Schuylkill River Trail as part of the Art on our Trails initiative.
- Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association preserved 15.7 acres at the Byrne Family Preserve.

**2016 IMPLEMENTATION**
- Open Sullivan Bridge to connect the Schuylkill River Trail to Valley Forge National Historical Park.
- Complete the first phase of the Schuylkill River Trail construction at Pottstown.
- Expand park and open space areas identified in the open space priorities report.
- Complete plans for the Stony Creek/Saw Mill Run and Swamp Creek greenways.
- Complete design of the Wissahickon and Cross County Trails through Erdenheim Farm.

**GOAL** Support strong downtowns and community destinations, including mixed use areas, arts and culture focal points, libraries, and other gathering places

**2015 ACHIEVEMENTS**
- Beech Street Lofts in Pottstown moves ahead as a great example of adaptive reuse in a historic building.
- Funding obtained for the new carousel and Colebrookdale Railroad in Pottstown, for a total of $500,000.
- Lower Merion Township renovated two libraries.

**2016 IMPLEMENTATION**
- Assist municipalities in planning for revitalization and using economic development tools to attract new investment.
- Provide new art along the county’s trails.
Sustainable Places

GOAL  Support a modern, resilient, green, and energy-efficient infrastructure network

2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

✓ 33 County bridges were in design or construction in 2015.
✓ 7.1 miles of county-owned roads were repaved.
✓ Energy and waste reduction strategies in the courthouse and county jail will allow the county to avoid creation of 2,219,408 lbs. of carbon dioxide annually as well as save $4.2 million over the next 20 years.
✓ A guide for green parking lots was prepared and was launched with a Planning Smarter event.
✓ County held 5 hazardous waste events in addition to tire collection and paper shredding events.

2016 IMPLEMENTATION

■ Finish construction of the Arcola Road bridge by Summer 2016.
■ Begin replacement of the Knight Road bridge.
■ Design the Keim Street Bridge once a preferred alignment is chosen.
■ Design, rehabilitate or replace more county-owned bridges.
■ Assist municipalities with sustainability and/or renewable energy planning and zoning.
■ Hold a Planning Smarter event on renewable energy.
■ Complete and implement the municipal waste management plan.
■ Update the sewage facilities database.
2016 IMPLEMENTATION

**GOAL** Improve stormwater management and reduce the impact of flooding

**2015 ACHIEVEMENTS**
- 5 buildings and 20 households were moved out of the floodplain at the Woodwinds development in Hatboro.
- The Wissahickon Creek Watershed Act 167 plan was adopted.
- The county received its MS4 permit.
- Floodgates were installed on Stenton Avenue at the Wissahickon Creek and on Conshohocken Road at the railroad trestle.
- The county planning commission received 25 updated (for new FEMA regulations) municipal floodplain ordinances to review.

**2016 IMPLEMENTATION**
- Review municipal floodplain ordinances for consistency with federal requirements.
- Develop the alternative TMDL plan with all permittees in the Wissahickon Watershed.
- Author a county-wide stormwater management plan.
- Promote stormwater best management practices in county facilities.
- Work with SEPTA on climate change mitigation work on the Norristown/Manayunk regional rail line.
- Assist local municipalities in obtaining hazard mitigation grant funding to reduce flood vulnerability.

**GOAL** Conserve natural resources, environmentally-sensitive areas, and farmland

**2015 ACHIEVEMENTS**
- Preserved 2 farms under the county’s Farmland Preservation Program.
- County released Trails, Parkland, and People – a strategy plan for open space preservation and recreation with $15.4 million set aside for implementation over the next 5 years.
- New meeting space and classrooms completed at the Norristown Farm Park
- Pavilion at the John James Audubon Center was winterized.

**2016 IMPLEMENTATION**
- Develop a park master plan for Lorimer Park.
- Improve access around Green Lane Park to the reservoir trails.
- Preserve at least two farms.
- Improve the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove by restoring the historic mansion and barn and designing a new visitor center to focus on Audubon’s art and history.
- Construct a new pavilion at Peter Wentz farmstead.
- Finish the canoe launch and fishing pier at Upper Schuylkill Valley Park.
### GOAL
Provide more opportunities for residents to exercise and have healthy lifestyles

#### 2015 ACHIEVEMENTS
- The county planning commission organized its first coordination meeting of municipal recreation staff.
- New farmers markets opened in Whitemarsh and Ardmore.
- The Flourtown Farmers Market and its 14 vendors have been able to move into a new home, thanks in part to a low interest loan from the county.

#### 2016 IMPLEMENTATION
- Connect county farmers with local restaurants, businesses, and consumers.
- Expand the Get Out and Go health and wellness initiative by holding more educational events, partnering with the Elmwood Park Zoo to encourage recreation, continuing the Mileage Club after school program, and creating an obesity prevention toolkit.
- Distribute food from local farms to older or disabled adults living in Housing Authority homes while providing residents with nutritional, cooking, and food preservation training.
- Update Bike Montco, the county’s bicycle plan.
- Work with municipal recreation program managers to coordinate and promote recreation opportunities.

### GOAL
Support housing choices and opportunities to meet the needs of all people

#### 2015 ACHIEVEMENTS
- The county’s Housing Authority voucher program waitlist reopened to new applicants.
- Construction began on new affordable senior housing units in Lansdale in conjunction with a YMCA development.
- Denser multifamily housing types developed, such as the Parc Apartments in Plymouth and the Courts at Spring Mill in Whitemarsh.

#### 2016 IMPLEMENTATION
- Continue to implement the goals of the Your Way Home program.
- Support community development and affordable housing initiatives.

### GOAL
Enhance community character and protect neighborhoods

#### 2015 ACHIEVEMENTS
- Became one of the first counties in the state to be text-to-911 capable.
- Added Walter and Gertrude May Stewart farmstead to the National Register of Historic Places.

#### 2016 IMPLEMENTATION
- Prepare a report on adaptively reusing institutional facilities including churches and schools.
- Continue significant upgrades to the public safety radio network.
- Improve information sharing in the criminal justice system by hosting a record management system and intelligence center/real time crime center capability.
## Vibrant Economy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>Improve transportation access to businesses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2015 ACHIEVEMENTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Completed the Turnpike Corridor Reinvestment Study.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Completed the Connecting KOP Benefits Study for the Norristown High Speed Line extension to King of Prussia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Began construction on the 2nd phase of the Lafayette Street Extension project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ PennDOT completed construction on and reopened Markley Street which provides better access to Norristown.</td>
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<td><strong>2016 IMPLEMENTATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Advocate for new and improved turnpike interchanges per the recommendations of the Turnpike Corridor Reinvestment Study.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Work with SEPTA and local stakeholders to build support for the Norristown High Speed Line extension to King of Prussia.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Continue construction of the new Route 422 bridge over the Schuylkill River at Valley Forge.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Advance the design of the PA 309 Connector.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Advance the Lafayette Street and Ridge Pike extension projects.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>Encourage development and transformative investment where infrastructure already exists</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2015 ACHIEVEMENTS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Completed the Horsham Business Park Master Plan.</td>
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<td>✓ Held two Planning Smarter events for business park revitalization and transit-oriented development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Upper Merion and Abington Townships adopted zoning that permits alternative uses in areas that are zoned primarily for office or industrial uses.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2016 IMPLEMENTATION</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Prepare a Fort Washington office park brochure and map.</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Complete and help implement the Keystone Boulevard specific plan.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**GOAL** Attract and retain businesses and vital community assets

2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Immunocorps opened an American headquarters location in Conshohocken.
- Major new construction projects underway for SEI, the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, and FedEx.
- The Judge group moved from Conshohocken to King of Prussia in order to expand.

2016 IMPLEMENTATION

- Continue a coordinated response to economic development inquiries.
- Market the Montgomery County to Business (MC2B) initiative and one-stop shop approach to economic development.
- Continue the Montco Opportunity Loan Program and related county and state financing options.
- Develop the Montco Works plan.

**GOAL** Flexibly adapt to changing market conditions and demographics

2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

- A new Target in KOP changed the face of the Valley Forge Shopping Center.
- Village at Valley Forge is bringing a mix of uses to an existing commercial district.

2016 IMPLEMENTATION

- Continue to explore the feasibility of new transit-oriented development.
- Explore the special needs of boomers and millennials and their impacts on the county’s built environment, economy, and transportation systems.

**GOAL** Facilitate the marketing of the county and its assets

2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

- The county’s profile was raised considerably during what was arguably the region’s biggest event of 2015 – the papal visit.
- Visits to two of the county’s bigger attractions – the Elmwood Park Zoo and the Valley Forge National Historical Park – were up in 2015 as well.
- Creative Montco, which works to promote arts and culture across the county, established an ongoing partnership with the Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board.

2016 IMPLEMENTATION

- Develop a Montgomery County sports facility feasibility and marketing study.
- Partner with the arts and culture community to improve promotions and marketing.
- Market the strengths of our county as a destination.
- Explore the feasibility of building a meetings and events center in the county.
- Continue the Make it Montco, Let Freedom Ring, and Towns of the Countryside initiatives.
2040 VISION

Land Use Vision
The land use vision will be implemented by:
■ Updating the comprehensive plan advisory guidelines for local zoning.
■ Assisting 15 to 20 municipalities in zoning and/or comprehensive plans through the community planning assistance program.
■ Implementing the Montco 2040 grant program.

Transportation Vision
The transportation vision will be implemented by:
■ Widening Ridge Pike from the Turnpike to the Norristown border as part of the Lafayette Street Extension project.
■ Beginning US 202 construction from Elm Street to Main Street in Norristown.
■ Continuing reconstruction of the I-476 Northeast Extension.
■ Beginning widening of County Line Road from Stump Road to Kulp Road.
■ Continuing construction of the Route 422 improvements around Pottstown and Valley Forge.
■ Expanding the parking lots at the Gwynedd Valley train station.
■ Constructing the SEPTA garage in Lansdale.
■ Developing a model ordinance for traffic impact studies and other municipal transportation issues.
■ Reconstructing Plank, Ott, Meyers, and Seitz Roads in the Central Perkiomen.
More details about upcoming initiatives can be found at county department websites and the websites of the county’s partners.

Aging and Adult Services  

Assets and Infrastructure – Office of Parks, Trails and Historic Sites  

Assets and Infrastructure – Office of Roads and Bridges  

Commerce  

Conservation District  
http://montgomeryconservation.org/

Health Department  

Housing Authority  
http://www.montcoha.org/

Housing and Community Development  

Montgomery County Planning Commission  

PennDOT  
http://www.dot.state.pa.us/

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission  
http://www.paturnpike.com/

Public Safety  

SEPTA  
http://www.septa.org/

Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board  
http://www.valleyforge.org/

To learn more about the county comprehensive plan and its implementation, go to -  
www.montcopa.org/Montco2040.