Montco 2040, the comprehensive plan for Montgomery County, was adopted in January 2015 as a working document to guide the county’s actions. A lot has changed in five years as we annually revisit our progress in implementing this plan. This report highlights major achievements that took place in 2019, and provides a number of implementation actions that we anticipate taking place in 2020. As always, many goals have been and will be implemented directly by the county, but many are implemented by the county’s partners, such as local municipalities, PennDOT, the Turnpike Commission, SEPTA, and other government agencies, nonprofit partners, and private developers.
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

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Completed 5 school district enrollment projection studies. (PC)
- Maintained 36 municipal planning and 4 regional planning contracts - with projects including comprehensive plan writing, zoning ordinance rewrites, open space plan updates, and land use assumptions reports. Bridgeport is the planning commission’s newest contract community. (PC)
- Continued the implementation of the county’s GIS strategic plan, including refinement and consolidation of countywide authoritative data layer features. Established an Open Data Portal featuring online maps and data delivery under the county GIS manager’s initiative. (PC)
- Completed year four of the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant program, with funding to 15 local projects. Projects from rounds one through three continue to be completed around the county. Demand for funding continues to be high. (PC)
- Continued renovations to One Montgomery Plaza and implementation of the campus planning efforts. (A&I)
- Pottstown and West Pottsgrove jointly adopted the Keystone Employment and Economic Plan (KEEP) - the first adopted specific plan in the state.
- Completed the rollout of the new voting system for the May primary and November general elections. (VS)
- Along with community partners, completed a robust data analysis of fetal and infant death records and developed a Community Action Plan to improve birth outcomes in the county, with a special focus on addressing racial disparities in the Norristown area. (HHS)
- Secured a $1.8M HUD grant to engage community partners ACLAMO, Public Citizens for Children and Youth, and local housing remediation businesses to support childhood lead poisoning prevention and healthy homes in the Pottstown and Lansdale areas. (HHS-OPH, HHS-HCD)
- Worked with federal (CDC, FDA) and state health partners to promote awareness and prevention of adverse health consequences of e-cigarettes and vaping, particularly among adolescents. (HHS-OPH, HHS-ODA, HHS-OCIE)
- Worked with state health partners and long term care facilities within the county to support infection prevention and control programs by providing information on emerging infectious diseases. (HHS)
- Partnered with local health agencies to develop much-needed navigation services for residents living with HIV. HIV Navigation Services is a short-term case management program linking HIV positive residents and high-risk HIV negative residents to services within the county that support HIV prevention and HIV care. (HHS)
2020 IMPLEMENTATION

- Collaborated on a funding opportunity to provide risk reduction education and vaccination to individuals at high risk of contracting Hepatitis A. Through the project, 50 educational sessions provided vaccines at 5 treatment centers. (HHS-OPH, HHS-ODA)
- Collaborated to provide education and outreach around opioid use disorder. (HHS-OPH, HHS-OSS, HHS-OVA)
- Formed a Local Leadership Council to work in an integrated and collaborative way within the county’s local early learning service community. (HHS-ELRC)
- Partnered with local advocates to convene two Montco Interfaith Conferences to build support for a county-wide Interfaith Coalition. This will support people providing a community outreach ministry by publicizing the resources available to their congregants and to build connections to assist with their ministry. (HHS)
- Initiated the 2020 comprehensive plan update with detailed reviews of the county’s policy maps. (PC)

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

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Bridge renovation projects continued to move forward. Twenty-nine bridge projects are currently underway - in various stages of design, permitting, and construction. (A&I-RB)
- The City Avenue District, which straddles Philadelphia and Lower Merion Township, implemented significant pedestrian safety improvements along City Avenue near St. Joseph’s University. This includes speed feedback signs, traffic signal upgrades, and rumble strips along the road.
- Adopted a complete streets policy, which commits the county to consider all modes of transportation in its construction and improvement projects; it also established an ongoing working group of county departments to collaborate on ways to implement the policy. (PC)
- Amended the region’s Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) to include $300,000 for a vision study of portions of 6 county-owned roads and advertised for consultant proposals to move this ahead. Began the TIP update with our planning partners. (PC)
- Began final design and right-of-way acquisition on the Ridge Pike Improvement Project from Crescent Avenue to Philadelphia. (PC)
- PennDOT awarded funds from the state’s Automated Red Light Enforcement program for traffic and safety projects in Perkiomen (a permanent traffic light at Route 29 and Bridge Road) and Conshohocken (for two rectangular rapid flashing beacons on Fayette Street).
- The county’s transportation grant program (CTP) used revenues from the $5 county vehicle registration fee to reallocate $1 million this past year to local transportation projects. In 2019, 6 municipalities received funding: to extend a road diet in Upper Dublin, replace a bridge in Upper Hanover, upgrade an intersection in Whittemarsh, improve a pedestrian crossing in Lansdale, improve pedestrian safety in Royersford, and install school zone signage in Springfield. (PC)
2020 IMPLEMENTATION

- Continue the county’s bridge reconstruction work. (A&I-RB)
- Oversee a TIP-funded study of county-owned roads. (PC)
- Manage all design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction activities for the Lafayette Street Extension Project and the Ridge Pike Improvement Project in Plymouth, Whitemarsh, and Springfield. (PC)
- Complete the PA Turnpike Interchange Study with DVRPC, publicly promote the traffic modeling results, and engage the PA Turnpike Commission staff on a future strategy to fund and construct the remaining interchanges. (PC)
- Implement Bike Montco to guide future on-road and roadway-adjacent bicycle facilities, including: bicycle tourism routes in cooperation with the Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board, potential partnerships with PennDOT’s resurfacing program, and neighborhood bike amenities in underserved communities. (PC)
- Implement the complete streets policy and hold a Planning Smarter event. (PC)

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

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Completed final design for the current Chester Valley Trail Extension, Erdenheim Farm, and Pennypack Trail projects. (PC)
- Formally opened a segment of the Schuylkill River Trail in Pottstown along Industrial Drive. (PC)
- Completed the Sunrise Trail & Swamp Creek Greenway Feasibility Study. (PC)
- Initiated several trail development and planning projects, including: a feasibility study for the portion of the Wissahickon Trail from Forbidden Drive to Morris Arboretum, design and engineering for the Schuylkill River Trail from Industrial Hwy to US 422, and a Germantown Pike bridge feasibility study for the Cross County Trail. (PC)
- Repaved approximately 1 mile of the Schuylkill River Trail. (A&I-PTHS)
- Resurfaced (with stone) or paved problematic sections of the Perkiomen Trail (approximately 1.5 miles). (A&I-PTHS)
- Implemented safety upgrades to trail crossings on the Perkiomen and Schuylkill River Trails. (A&I-PTHS)
- Lansdale opened a portion of the Liberty Bell Trail.
- Many communities used Montco 2040 grants to expand trails. Lower Gwynedd completed its Carriages Connection Trail to expand its local trail network at Spring House. Worcester completed a trail connection from Deford Road to the Center Point Shoppes and ultimately expanded its Zacharias Creek Trail network. And Lower Salford completed a trail connection and pedestrian improvements to provide access to Henning’s Supermarket off of Route 63.

2020 IMPLEMENTATION

- Develop the final Montgomery County segment (northern) of the Pennypack Trail. (PC, A&I-PTHS)
- Begin construction along the Chester Valley Trail Extension and the Erdenheim Farm portions of the Cross County and Wissahickon Trails. (A&I-PTHS)
- Continue trail development and planning projects for the Wissahickon Trail, Trail Junction Center, and Cross County Trail, among others. (PC)
- Continue the acquisition of key properties as identified in the county’s open space priorities report. (PC)
- Complete the Trail Access, Diversity, and Awareness plan and hold a Planning Smarter event. (PC)

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

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

- A brand-new $43 million YMCA facility in Willow Grove is nearing completion - a 98,000 square foot facility on 42 acres. This replaces both the Abington and Hatboro facilities; the land from the former YMCA facility in Abington is to be leased to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. Hatboro's facility is slated to become part of an expansion of the borough’s successful Victorian Village senior housing facility.
- Held a Planning Smarter event in Lansdale - “Transforming Our Downtowns into Main Street Greenways” - in conjunction with the county’s Main Street Greenways report. The event featured walking tours and a scavenger hunt in the downtown. (PC)
- The county commissioners held Town Hall meetings in 2019 in King of Prussia, Pottstown, Pennsburg, and Glenside, each with a demonstration of the county’s new voting machines.
Continued to pursue comprehensive planning efforts to guide future growth and development, including Plymouth, Lansdale, and Upper Moreland. Schwenksville adopted a new zoning ordinance and Lower Merion held a comprehensive day-long charrette to analyze the impacts of its proposed new zoning ordinance. (PC)

Granted CDBG funds across the county. Ambler received funds for accessibility renovations to restrooms within the community center at the municipal complex on Rosemary Avenue. Springfield received funds for accessibility renovations to Connor James McKelvie Park on Allison Road. Pennsburg received funds for street improvements on West 2nd Street. Royersford received funds for street improvements on North 5th Avenue. And more than $525,000 funded ADA improvements for 67 curb ramps and sidewalk segments at various locations in Hatboro, Jenkintown, and West Conshohocken. (HHS-HCD)

The Colebrookdale Railroad broke ground for the Pottstown Steel River Station in Memorial Park this past March.

Schwenksville Borough finished improvements to its Borough Plaza and Meadow Park.

The Ardmore SEPTA/Amtrak Station and Loop Improvements project began construction. This ultimately will include a new station building, high level platforms, modifications to the existing pedestrian tunnel, new canopies and passenger shelters, and site and circulation improvements. The adjacent proposed parking garage is still in design.

Upper Dublin Township received a $1 million grant from the state’s Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) toward the township library’s new home in the Fort Washington Office Park.

Montco 2040 grants were used for a variety of civic uses. Bridgeport built a combination civic event area/plaza/public parking lot next to its borough hall. And Pennsburg’s Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center was renovated and expanded to enhance its offerings of historic and cultural artifacts representing the settlement of the Upper Perkiomen Valley. (PC)
GOAL  Support a modern, resilient, green, and energy-efficient infrastructure network

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

✓ Provided nearly $1.5 million through the regional Green Light Go funding program to Cheltenham, Lower Providence, Montgomery, and Upper Moreland Townships to upgrade outdated and energy inefficient traffic signals. (DVRPC)

✓ Committed to purchasing renewable energy for heating and powering all county-owned buildings, and powering all county-owned vehicles by 2050. Authorized a wind energy purchase that will power all of the county’s electrical accounts with emission-free renewable power. (CC)

✓ Sponsored 7 household hazardous waste collection events, 3 tire collections, as well as a campaign sign recycling program, all actions outlined in the county’s municipal waste management plan. (PC)

✓ Produced a Planning Smarter event - Sustainability Summer School: How Schools and Municipalities Can Partner for Sustainability. (PC)

✓ Pursued design and siting of a year-round recycling center, with the correctional facility as a potential site. (PC)

✓ Supported municipal Sol Smart work and explored solar power purchasing agreement options. (PC)

✓ Initiated an update of the water facilities database and report and completed an update of the sewage facilities database. (PC)

2020 IMPLEMENTATION

■ Coordinate, support, and promote the county’s energy, resiliency, and sustainability program. (PC)

■ Support solar and renewable energy among municipalities in the county, including Sol Smart. (PC)

■ Support municipal sustainability and resiliency planning efforts, including consortium climate change resiliency program. (PC)

■ Maintain contract to shred and compost county documents and sponsor hazardous waste collection events. (PC)

■ Continue to pursue a location and funding for a permanent recycling facility. (PC)

■ Complete the update of the water facilities database. (PC)

■ Begin background work on hazard mitigation plan / county resilience plan. (PC)

■ Red Hill will install a bioretention garden and nature area to improve water quality using a Montco 2040 grant.
2020 IMPLEMENTATION

GOAL Improve stormwater management and reduce the impact of flooding

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Facilitated the Wissahickon Creek Water Quality Improvement Plan process and submission of a draft plan to the EPA and DEP. (PC)
- Held a climate change training in conjunction with DVRPC and FEMA; a FEMA hazard mitigation planning session was held in June at the Fire Training Academy. (PC)
- Implemented the county’s MS4 stormwater permit. This year, county staff surveyed and inventoried all stormwater facilities on county-owned property and developed a strategy to monitor their effectiveness moving forward. The county also started an in-house implementation committee to oversee future MS4 activities being undertaken. (PC)

2020 IMPLEMENTATION

- Promote stormwater BMPs through A&I capital improvements planning. (A&I)
- Continue implementing the requirements of the county’s MS4 permit. (PC)
- Continue facilitating the Wissahickon Creek TMDL planning process. (PC)
- Hold a Planning Smarter event to address how businesses and homeowners can tackle stormwater runoff on their own properties. (PC)
- Assist local municipalities in obtaining hazard mitigation grant funding to reduce flood vulnerability. (PC)

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

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Completed and opened the John James Audubon Center on schedule in mid-2019. (A&I-PTHS)
- Completed the Green Lane Park concession stand restoration and subsequently opened for rental. (A&I-PTHS)
- Continued significant external mill and barn restorations at Sunrise Mill. (A&I-PTHS)
- Planted additional trees along the Germantown Pike Trail in the Norristown Farm Park. (A&I-PTHS)
- Commenced design rehabilitation of Old Neiffer Road Bridge at Sunrise Mill. (A&I-PTHS)
- Preserved 5 farms (with another 2 about to go to settlement) under the county’s Farmland Preservation Program. The county has preserved more than 9,900 acres of farmland. (PC)
- Continued outreach and support around the spotted lanternfly. The Norristown Farm Park was the site of research this past summer on using a fungus native to the county as a potential way of eradicating this pest. (MCCD)

2020 IMPLEMENTATION

- Continue to leverage additional county funds to make offers to and preserve new farms. The county will reach 10,000 preserved acres (and 30 years of farmland preservation) in 2020. (PC)
- Begin planning for the 6th Keep Farming Conference, to be held in 2021. (PC)
- Preserve open space identified in the county’s Parks Expansion Program. (PC)
- Restore large Upper Schuylkill Valley Park historic barn and continue to improve animal exhibit areas. (A&I-PTHS)
- Replace substandard ranger station and create a regional maintenance facility at Lower Perkiomen Valley Park. (A&I-PTHS)
- Improve access and parking at Norristown Farm Park while also rehabilitating the historical office building (barn). (A&I-PTHS)
- Continue outreach and education on the spotted lanternfly. (MCCD and others)
GOAL  Provide more opportunities for residents to exercise and have healthy lifestyles

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

✓ Provided subsidized child care funding for an average of approximately 4,700 children who are cared for in more than 465 early learning programs throughout the county. (HHS-ELRC)

✓ Created an asset map for families and providers in Montgomery County to use as a resource to locate early learning programs, physicians, libraries, elementary schools and many other valuable resources. (HHS-OPP, HHS-ELRC)

✓ Awarded a contract to the Council of Southeast PA/Pro-Act to open the first Community Recovery Center for individuals in recovery from substance use disorders. (HHS-OMCS, HHS-ODA)

✓ Purchased Narcan kits for opioid overdose reversals for the three county health centers for distribution to the public and sponsored four Narcan Education & Distribution events for county residents. (HHS-ODA, HHS-OPH, HHS-OCIE)

✓ Developed a Youth Marijuana Prevention Project to address the high incidence of marijuana use among youth in Montgomery County. (HHS-ODA)

✓ Provided funding to a private non-profit organization to employ two drug & alcohol case managers: one at the Adult Probation Office and one at the Montgomery County Correctional Facility to more expeditiously assess individuals with substance use issues who are involved in the criminal justice system, in order to admit those individuals to drug and alcohol treatment programs. (HHS-ODA)

✓ Increased the number of county-supervised foster homes by 38 percent. (HHS-OCY)

✓ Held the 5th annual Wellness Fair focusing on Integrated Health with 54 vendors representing services and supports to promote physical, emotional, and social well-being. (HHS-OMCS)

✓ Partnered to fund a Recovery Supports Center in Norristown, providing recovery peer supports, family and community education, and trainings to promote workforce development. (HHS-OMCS, HHS-ODA)

✓ Maintained and expanded community gardens at Gilbertsville Elementary, Franconia Elementary, Laurel House, Salvation Army, and Einstein Medical Center-Montgomery. (HHS-OPH)

✓ Identified by the national Stepping Up Initiative as an “Innovator County” for its work in using data to make policy changes for reducing the number of individuals who experience serious mental illness in county jails while improving public safety in effective and fiscally responsible ways.

✓ Supported 17 Montgomery County school districts, through its federal grant for School Violence Prevention, for teacher training/instructional coaching in evidence-based social and emotional learning programs, crisis prevention training, and classroom management techniques. (HHS-ODA, HHS-OMH)

✓ Acquired a grant through the PA Developmental Disabilities Council to support individuals with intellectual disabilities and autism in developing healthy relationships and understanding safe boundaries. (HHS-DDO)

✓ Partnered with several county departments, Victim’s Services, and Mission Kids to develop a protocol for investigating serious crimes against vulnerable adults who require special interview accommodations in a safe place with a trauma-informed team. (HHS-DDO, DA)

✓ Facilitated a strategic planning process with the Suicide Prevention Taskforce; its Montgomery County Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan was ultimately adopted. (HHS-OMH)

✓ Increased safe physical activity with a comprehensive walking program at the Elmwood Park Zoo through the Junior Inspector Program. (HHS-OCIE)

✓ Continued the Montgomery County Trail Challenge. More than 1,100 people and 163 dogs participated in 2019. More than 100 people visited all of the county trails this year through the challenge. (HHS-OCIE, PTHS)

✓ Continued to distribute healthy food through a farm share partnership with Living Hope Farm to populations served by ACLAMO, Salem Baptist Church, Tri-County Adult Center, and the Open Link while providing nutritional, cooking, and food preservation training. More than 4,000 pounds of produce was distributed in the 12 week harvest. (HHS-OPH)

2020 IMPLEMENTATION

■ Expand the community garden at the Montgomery County Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) in Norristown. (HHS-OCIE)
2020 IMPLEMENTATION

- Implement a fruit and vegetable prescription program at Lansdale Children’s Health Clinic where health care providers will write a prescription voucher for food insecure (and eligible) patients to receive produce from Living Hope Farm. (HHS-OCIE)
- Continue to promote ways for farmers to bring their locally grown goods to new marketplaces. Explore the creation of a county food policy council. (PC)
- Implement a special, limited program to provide child care funding for unserved populations within Montgomery County. (HHS-ELRC)
- Develop and implement a shared services model to assist child care programs in leveraging resources across an entire organization or organizations resulting in lower costs. (HHS-ELRC)
- Continue to expand the array of services to meet the needs of children and families. (HHS-OCY)
- Partner to fund a Diversion Center to promote recovery and access to recovery supports for overdose survivors. (HHS-OMCS, HHS-ODA)
- Continue to increase safe physical activity with the comprehensive walking program at the Elmwood Park Zoo through the Junior Inspector Program. (HHS-OCIE)
- Continue the Montgomery County Trail Challenge with a goal of having more than 100 people visit all 15 trails. (HHS-OCIE, A&I-PTHS)
- Continue to increase safe physical activity and transportation through the Safe Routes to School program in at least 3 schools. (HHS-OCIE, PC)
- Implement “123 Healthy Me” curriculum in 5 classrooms in collaboration with MCIU and Abington-Jefferson Health. (HHS-OCIE)
- Implement the Coordinated Approach to Child Health program (CATCH) aimed at a designated middle school. (HHS-OCIE)

✓ Provided homeowners with CDBG funds to make repairs and improvements to their properties that corrected and repaired code violations, structural deficiencies, and mechanical systems. (HHS-OCED)
✓ Helped 139 homeless families through the Your Way Home Initiative in 2019 move into housing and assisted 478 formerly homeless families in stabilizing their housing, provided shelter for over 510 residents, and allocated hotel vouchers so that no child or pregnant woman ever slept outside in the county. Montgomery County has experienced a 47% reduction in homelessness since launching Your Way Home in 2014. (HHS-OCED)
✓ Provided diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training to the County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) staff and Your Way Home providers, launched an LGBTQIA action team, and developed a new 3-year strategic plan for equitable housing outcomes. Your Way Home also partnered with Villanova University to develop a new assessment tool for the evaluation of housing stability on students’ educational success. (HHS-OCED)
✓ Continued to rebuild North Hills Manor in Upper Dublin Township in conjunction with Pennrose Properties. Upon completion in 2020, the LEED-certified community will provide 8 one-bedroom units, 15 three-bedroom units, and 6 four-bedroom units of newly built affordable housing. Six units will be fully ADA compliant and 34 will meet ‘visitabile’ standards for populations using wheelchairs. (HA)
✓ Wrapped up the initial phase of input into the creation of a strategic county-level plan, Homes For All, to support housing construction for people at all price points. (PC, CD, HHS-OCED)

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

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS
✓ Continued to partner with private developers to expand quality market-rate and affordable housing units. (HHS-OCED)
### GOAL
Enhance community character and protect neighborhoods

#### 2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Continued implementation of the Fire Services Study. (PS)
- Continued the public safety voice (radio) and paging upgrade. This will expand tower sites from 20 to 30, adding additional geographic coverage for critical communications. Public safety’s voice radio project handles 1 million transmissions every month. (PS)
- Initiated the county-hosted Records Management System (RMS), which is being utilized by the county DA, Sheriff’s office, and 33 police departments; it will expand further in 2020. (PS)
- Expanded the county’s capability of developing and publishing data and metrics on crime and traffic, especially concerning the opioid epidemic. A grant funded two additional public safety analysts, as well as a new division - Public Safety Intelligence and Information. (PS)
- Partnered with federal, state, and local health and environmental partners to conduct a biomonitoring study of residents to define levels of exposure to PFAS (polychlorinated substances), a byproduct of firefighting foam that has contaminated the drinking water near a former military installation in Horsham. (HHS-OPH)
- The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) program partnered with county departments, the Township of Limerick, state and federal preparedness agencies, and neighboring counties to conduct a week-long emergency preparedness drill to test the County’s Medical Countermeasures response in the event of a bioterrorism event involving a hypothetical anthrax release in Philadelphia. The exercise challenged the program to activate points of dispensing (PODS), warehousing operations, and emergency operations centers that would be necessary in an actual bioterrorism event. (HHS-OPH, PS)
- Supported Park(ing) Day with pop-up open spaces in Norristown, which highlighted the importance of farming and local food production. (PC, HHS-OCIE)
- Historic preservation (and preserving the county’s heritage) continues to be a priority. Royersford Borough’s Humane Fire Engine Company No. 1 was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2019.

#### 2020 IMPLEMENTATION

- Begin prioritizing feedback provided in the Fire Services report - including the further study of adding a western Montgomery County training facility for fire, police, and EMS, as well as the potential for an additional training specialist with a background in distance learning. (PS)
- The Records Management System will expand its user group and add in Street Smart, a software program that will provide real time crime intelligence to every on-duty police officer and detective county-wide. (PS)
- Expand the county’s traffic monitoring via CCTV and enhance our communications capability, in real time, with PennDOT’s Traffic Management Center. (PS)
- Continue with the second phase of the county’s PFAS study with an attempt to link exposure to PFAS to adverse health outcomes. (HHS-OPH)
- Expand the Points of Dispensing program to include all post-acute healthcare facilities, major industry, higher and private education, and government sites in the county. (HHS-OPH)
- Develop and establish a recruitment, education, and training program for employees that enables them to be utilized as volunteers at Points of Dispensing and in response to other disasters. (HHS-OPH)
- Partner with acute care hospitals and post-acute facilities in the county, continue to incorporate facilities into the Point of Dispensing Program, and encourage facilities to join their respective emergency support zones. (HHS-OPH)
- Collaborate with the emergency support zones to develop projects and tools to increase the ability to meet compliance regulations for healthcare facilities within Montgomery County. (HHS-OPH)
- Coordinate with the Office of Public Safety and the PA Department of Human Services, Division of Emergency Planning and Safety Operations to develop a FAST (Functional Assessment Service Team) for Montgomery County which will include other HHS/County offices working side by side with emergency responders to assess and refer people with access and functional needs to local resources to support them during a disaster. (HHS-CC)
- Identify additional locations where Navicate services can be provided at partner organizations in isolated and underserved areas across the county. (HHS-CC)
Vibrant Economy

GOAL  Improve transportation access to businesses

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS

- PennDOT continued construction to replace and widen the US 422 bridge over the Schuykill River - completion expected in 2020.
- The PA Turnpike has started construction to widen the roadway from the Lansdale interchange to the Quakertown interchange along the Northeast Extension.
- Continued the study with DVRPC to model local traffic improvements associated with two new Turnpike interchanges. (PC)
- Opened the extension of Lafayette Street from Ford Street to Conshohocken Road while progressing the construction of Phase 3 of the Lafayette Street Extension Project to 80 percent complete. (PC)
- The Turnpike Commission is in the process of designing the Lafayette Street highway interchange.

2020 IMPLEMENTATION

- Advocate for improved turnpike interchanges per the recommendations of the Turnpike Corridor Reinvestment Study and its 2017 update.
- Complete the King of Prussia Rail Final Environmental Impact Statement and initiate the 30% design phase with SEPTA.
- Support enhancements to public transportation projects that improve quality of life and the attractiveness of communities to business and the workforce looking to locate here, such as the current projects at Willow Grove, Noble, Philmont and Conshohocken stations. Continue to support these efforts with a model transit oriented development (TOD) zoning ordinance. (PC)
- Finish construction of a Pennsylvania Turnpike ramp at the Fort Washington Interchange to create direct access onto Commercial Drive in the Fort Washington Business Park.
**GOAL** Encourage development and transformative investment where infrastructure already exists

**2019 ACHIEVEMENTS**
- Ground was broken on the new headquarters for AmerisourceBergen at SORA West in Conshohocken, which will shift 1,500 existing jobs and more than 500 new jobs into the county. This project received an $8 million Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) grant from the state in 2019.
- Other entities receiving 2019 RACP grants include the Ardmore Transit Center, Rosemont College, Salus University, AIM Academy, Willow Grove YMCA, and Amatex Norfab, a company with a Norristown production facility which makes fiberglass textiles for use in high temperature applications, such as firefighter gear.
- Pottstown formed a land bank to help control and acquire blighted properties - with the goal of getting them back on the tax rolls.
- Funds from the state’s Department of Community and Economic Development’s Local Share Account went to fund a variety of economic development activities in the county, including projects from the Municipality of Norristown, the SORA West hotel development in Conshohocken, the new parking lot being developed at the Elmwood Park Zoo, and a business park in Bridgeport. (RDA)

**2020 IMPLEMENTATION**
- Continue to support investments in roads, rails, and other existing infrastructure throughout the county and region. (PC, CD, RDA)
- Engage in the study of one or more key economic development corridors in the region. (CD)
- Develop opportunities to further leverage investments in infrastructure with economic and workforce development programming. (CD)

**GOAL** Attract and retain businesses and vital community assets

**2019 ACHIEVEMENTS**
- Launched the outward-facing MontcoFoward.org - and an accompanying video - to promote the county as the place to live, work, learn, and invest. (CD)
- Partnered with regional economic development organizations on the PA Engage! program to promote business attraction and retention efforts. (CD)
- Provided assistance on two Tax Increment Financing (TIF) projects. (CD)
- Continued to hold its twice-per-year forum meetings, open to municipal staff and economic development professionals. (CD)
- Participated with regional partners in new initiatives to improve the global competitiveness of Greater Philadelphia, including meeting with foreign delegations. (CD)
- Continued working on business outreach and engagement. (CD)

**2020 IMPLEMENTATION**
- Meet with county businesses to better understand their (and their workforce’s) needs and issues. (CD)
- Improve capacity to assist businesses and consultants who make site selection inquiries. (CD)
- Continue commitment to meeting with local communities and organizations to provide information, insights, and assistance with economic and workforce development. (CD)
- Improve coordination with municipalities to ensure that entrepreneurs and businesses are able to quickly establish relationships and have the necessary information to start or expand a business. (CD)
2020 IMPLEMENTATION

GOAL  Flexibly adapt to changing market conditions and demographics

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS
✓ MontcoWorks, the workforce development board for Montgomery County, expanded its engagement of young students looking at career opportunities with its Manufest and More event and its first ever Healthcare Expo, with a combined over 1,800 students in attendance. (CD)
✓ Continued our participation in the DVRPC Futures Group to discuss scenario planning (and our regional response) around issues like globalization, moving people and goods, and smart cities. (PC)
✓ Formed the Montgomery County Complete Count Committee and participated in the Census Bureau’s LUCA program (to evaluate census address lists) and the PSAP program (to alter census boundaries to bring them into compliance for 2020). (PC, CC)

2020 IMPLEMENTATION
■ Continue to participate in and contribute to regional forums on economic opportunities and demographic changes. (CD)
■ Support the upcoming Census Day 2020, including the work of the Complete Count Committee. (PC, CC)
■ Create 2050 Long-Range Forecasts with DVRPC for population and employment. (PC)
■ Continue to proactively engage with Chambers of Commerce, community groups, and regional stakeholders to educate them on the county’s economic and workforce development expertise while looking for ways to deepen partnerships. (CD)

2020 IMPLEMENTATION

GOAL  Facilitate the marketing of the county and its assets

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS
✓ Major events and destinations continue to be a draw. Cirque de Soleil came back to Montgomery County with a bigger event, in addition to a stop in Oaks by the Big Apple Circus and a performance at the Keswick Theater by the Philadelphia Orchestra.
✓ The Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board became one of the first tourism agencies in the nation to have an ADA-compliant website - alongside the launch of Access Montco, an initiative to link those with disabilities with the resources they need for a successful visit to the county.
✓ Tourism spending in 2018 grew to $1.65 billion in Montgomery County and grew 5% from the prior year. Tourism also supported more than 4% of the county’s jobs, employing more than 20,000 people. More than 2.1 million hotel rooms were filled in the county in 2018.

2020 IMPLEMENTATION
■ Continue to grow the county’s share of the state’s tourism industry as big events continue to draw visitors.
■ Continue to work with the VFTCB to promote the county’s regional sports facilities and other attractions.
2040 VISION

Land Use Vision

The land use vision will be implemented by:

- Updating the comprehensive plan’s (future land use and development potential maps based on updated aerial photos.
- Continuing to assist 15 to 20 municipalities in zoning and/or comprehensive plans through the community planning assistance program.
- Partnering with municipalities along the Turnpike Corridor to promote redevelopment around existing and future interchanges.
- Continuing to support development and density around the county’s transit centers and train stations.
- Administering Year 5 of the Montco 2040 grant program.
- Preserving farms, open space, and other recreational areas.
- Creating a transit oriented development model ordinance.

Transportation Vision

The transportation vision will be implemented by:

- Continuing US 202 reconstruction around Markley Street in Norristown.
- Continuing US 202 reconstruction in Whiptain Township from Township Line Road to Morris Road.
- Continuing reconstruction and widening of the I-476 Northeast Extension beyond the Lansdale interchange.
- Continuing Route 422 improvements around Pottstown’s Stowe Interchange. Improvements at Valley Forge are nearly complete.
- Adding high level platforms at the Noble, Jenkintown (close to starting), and Ardmore (under construction) SEPTA stations.
- Completing the final phase of the Lafayette Street Extension Project in downtown Norristown - scheduled for 2020.
- Continuing the implementation of traffic management technology along I-76 and its parallel roads.
- Launching year three of the County Transportation Grant Program to financially partner with municipalities on needed improvements.

95 percent of residential development and 97 percent of nonresidential development was built in our growth areas in 2018.
The Land Use Vision in Montco 2040 suggests development potential across the county in terms of desired character, level of development, and access to utilities. The Plan recommends that 95% of new homes be built in Designated Growth Areas, which includes existing developed areas. No more than 5% of new homes should be built in Rural Resources Areas as single units or clustered developments.
The Land Use Vision in Montco 2040 suggests development potential across the county in terms of desired character, level of development, and access to utilities. The Plan recommends virtually all new nonresidential development be built in Designated Growth Areas, which includes existing developed areas.
The Transportation Vision in Montco 2040 identifies Programmed Roadway Projects as of the plan’s adoption in 2015. These are high-priority projects with dedicated construction funding. These projects were either already in the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which covered a twelve-year time frame, or in the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission’s (DVRPC) Long Range Plan.

Numbered boxes refer to specific projects as described in the Transportation Vision section of Montco 2040: A Shared Vision.
The Transportation Vision in Montco 2040 identifies Vision Roadway Projects as of the plan’s adoption in 2015. These are high-priority projects that did not have dedicated funding at the time of the plan’s adoption in 2015. However, some vision projects have progressed from PennDOT, DVRPC, or local municipal initiatives to make our transportation network more efficient and safe.
More details about upcoming initiatives can be found at county department websites and the websites of the county’s partners.

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

Assets and Infrastructure – Office of Roads and Bridges

Commerce Department
http://www.montcopa.org/779/Commerce

Conservation District
http://montgomeryconservation.org/

Department of Health and Human Services

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

Office of Housing and Community Development

Montgomery County Planning Commission

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

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

Department of Public Safety

Office of Senior Services
http://www.montcopa.org/148/Senior-Services

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.