

2015 IMPLEMENTATION

Montco 2040: A Shared Vision

Montco 2040, the new comprehensive plan for Montgomery County, will be implemented in a variety of ways. 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. A few of the 2015 short and long term implementation actions are highlighted in this overview.



Connected Communities



GOAL

Encourage collaboration and partnerships among governments, businesses, institutions, schools, higher education, and other stakeholders

THIS GOAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY:

- Meeting with all 62 municipalities about comprehensive plan implementation.
- Conducting 2 or more school district enrollment studies.
- Assisting the county's municipalities with their planning work.



GOAL

Improve transportation quality and expand options for county residents and workers

THIS GOAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY:

- Overseeing design of the Lafayette Street Turnpike Interchange.
- Preparing a walkability plan for the county.
- Assisting 5 to 10 municipalities in planning for trails, walkability, or bicycling.
- Developing a complete streets initiative.
- Working with the Pottstown and Norristown school districts to improve the ability to walk and bike to school.
- Going to county elementary schools to encourage biking and bike safety.

GOAL

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

THIS GOAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY:

- Extending the Pennypack Trail to Byberry Road.
- Completing the Schuylkill River Trail towpath restoration and Pottstown section.
- Acquiring additional right-of-way for the Chester Valley Trail.
- Beginning a greenway study for the multi-municipal planning areas.
- Preparing greenway plans for the Stony Creek/Saw Mill Run and Swamp Creek greenways.



GOAL

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

THIS GOAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY:

- Assisting 5 to 10 municipalities in planning for revitalization and using economic development tools to attract new investment.
- Providing new art along the county's trails.

Sustainable Places



GOAL

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

THIS GOAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY:

- Continuing construction of the Arcola Road bridge.
- Beginning replacement of the Knight Road bridge.
- Designing, rehabilitating or replacing an additional 20 county-owned bridges.
- Designing the Keim Street Bridge once a preferred alignment is chosen.
- Assisting 5 municipalities with sustainability and/or renewable energy planning and zoning.
- Preparing a guide for green and sustainable parking lots.
- Completing the municipal waste management plan.
- Creating a database of sustainable practices in the region.



GOAL

Improve stormwater management and reduce the impact of flooding

THIS GOAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY:

- Reviewing municipal floodplain ordinances for consistency with federal requirements.
- Exploring feasibility of a county-wide stormwater management plan.
- Promoting stormwater best management practices in county facilities.
- Working with SEPTA on climate change mitigation work on the Norristown/Manayunk regional rail line.
- Assisting local municipalities in obtaining hazard mitigation grant funding to reduce flood vulnerability.

GOAL

Conserve natural resources, environmentally-sensitive areas, and farmland

THIS GOAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY:

- Adding more permanently-protected land in the Sunrise Mill Greenway.
- Improving access around Green Lane Park to the reservoir trails.
- Preserving at least two farms.
- Improving the John James Audobon Center at Mill Grove by winterizing the pavilion, restoring the historic mansion and barn, and designing a new visitor center.
- Constructing a new pavilion at Peter Wentz farmstead.
- Installing new signage in the county park system.
- Building a canoe launch, fishing pier, picnic area, and trail extensions at Upper Schuylkill Valley Park.
- Completing new classroom/meeting space at Norristown Farm Park.

GOAL

Provide more opportunities for residents to exercise and have healthy lifestyles

THIS GOAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY:

- Connecting county farmers with local restaurants, businesses, and consumers.
- Expanding 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.
- Distributing food from local farms to older or disabled adults living in Housing Authority homes while providing residents with nutritional, cooking, and food preservation training.
- Preparing an issues guide for community gardens.
- Working with municipal recreation program managers to coordinate and promote recreation opportunities.



GOAL

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

THIS GOAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY:

- Continuing to implement the goals of the Your Way Home program.
- Supporting community development and affordable housing initiatives.

GOAL

Enhance community character and protect neighborhoods

THIS GOAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY:

- Preparing a report on adaptively reusing churches and schools.
- Preparing an issues guide for infill development.
- Becoming one of the first counties in Pennsylvania to be text to 9-1-1 capable.
- Continuing significant upgrades to the public safety radio network.
- Improving information sharing in the criminal justice system by hosting a record management system and intelligence center/real time crime center capability.





GOAL

Improve transportation access to businesses

THIS GOAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY:

- Completing the Turnpike Corridor Reinvestment Study and advocating for new and improved turnpike interchanges.
- Completing the alternatives analysis for the Norristown High Speed Line extension to King of Prussia. (KofP rail)
- Beginning construction of the new Route 422 bridge over the Schuylkill River at Valley Forge.
- Advancing the design of the PA 309 Connector.
- Continuing the construction and design of the Lafayette Street improvements in Plymouth and Norristown.



GOAL

Encourage development and transformative investment where infrastructure already exists

THIS GOAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY:

- Preparing a Horsham business park master plan.
- Holding an educational seminar on revitalizing business parks.

GOAL

Attract and retain businesses and vital community assets

THIS GOAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY:

- Implementing a coordinated response to economic development inquiries.
- Developing and implementing economic strategies for the Pottstown and Central Perkiomen Valley regions.
- Marketing the Montgomery County to Business (MC2B) initiative and one-stop shop approach to economic development.
- Continuing the Montco Opportunity Loan Program and related county and state financing options.
- Implementing the Montgomery County Workforce Investment Area Local Plan.



GOAL

Flexibly adapt to changing market conditions and demographics

THIS GOAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY:

- Holding an educational seminar on new transit-oriented housing.
- Exploring demographic changes and their impacts on the county's built environment, economy, and transportation systems.

GOAL

Facilitate the marketing of the county and its assets

THIS GOAL WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BY:

- Marketing the county trail system by publishing a trail guidebook and making the region aware of the county's trail amenities.
- Rolling out a sports initiative intended to attract more sports related events to the county.
- Partnering with the arts and culture community to improve promotions and marketing.
- Exploring the feasibility of building a meetings and events center in the county.
- Continuing 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.
- Holding an educational seminar on form based zoning.



Transportation Vision

The transportation vision will be implemented by:

- Widening Ridge Pike from the Turnpike to the Norristown border.
- Completing Route 202 construction from Elm Street to Johnson Highway in Norristown.
- Continuing construction of the Northeast Extension.
- Beginning construction of County Line Road widening from Stump Road to Kulp Road.
- Continuing construction of the Route 422 improvements around Pottstown.
- Expanding the parking lots at the Gwynedd Valley and North Wales train stations.
- Beginning construction of the SEPTA garage in Lansdale.
- Developing a model ordinance for traffic impact studies.



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More details about upcoming initiatives can be found at county department websites and the websites of the county's partners.

Aging and Adult Services

<http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?nid=148>

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

<http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?NID=31>

Assets and Infrastructure – Office of Roads and Bridges

<http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?NID=377>

Commerce

<http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?nid=779>

Conservation District

<http://montgomeryconservation.org/>

Health Department

<http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?nid=513>

Housing Authority

<http://www.montcoha.org/>

Housing and Community Development

<http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?nid=395>

Montgomery County Planning Commission

<http://www.montcopa.org/index.aspx?nid=490>

PennDOT

<http://www.dot.state.pa.us/>

Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission

<http://www.paturnpike.com/>

Public Safety

<http://montcopa.org/index.aspx?nid=132>

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.