2021 IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE
MONTCO 2040: A SHARED VISION
Montco 2040 was adopted in January 2015 as a working document to guide the county’s actions. A lot has changed as we annually revisit our progress in implementing this plan. The onset of COVID-19 affected our planned work for the year as we collectively rose to meet public health needs and economic challenges. This report highlights major achievements that took place in 2020, and provides a number of implementation actions that we anticipate taking place in 2021. Many goals have been and will be implemented 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.
**Connected Communities**

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

**2020 ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Maintained 35 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. (PC)
- Continued the implementation of the county’s GIS strategic plan, including refinement and consolidation of countywide authoritative data layer features. (PC)
- Completed year five of the Montco 2040 Implementation Grant program, with funding to 15 local projects. Projects from rounds one through four continue to be completed. Demand for funding continues to be high. (PC)
- Continued to facilitate the Wissahickon Clean Water Partnership and Wissahickon Management Committee. MCPC is under contract with the Management Committee, comprised of 13 municipalities and 4 wastewater treatment plants, which submitted the Draft Wissahickon Water Quality Improvement Plan to the EPA and DEP last year. We are currently working with the partnership to respond to the regulator’s comments on the draft plan, with the intent to submit a revised plan in 2021. (PC)
- Contributed to efforts within the county to study and incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion principles into our departmental practices through participation in the county’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. (PC)
- Continued renovations to One Montgomery Plaza and implementation of the campus planning efforts. (A&I)
- Implemented walk-up COVID-19 community test sites in collaboration with local partners. Through November 17, 19,283 people have been tested and 997 persons have been identified as testing positive at these sites. To date, the county has had more than 35,000 positive cases and more than 1,000 total deaths. (OPH)
- Contracted with four community non-profit agencies to provide contact tracing in Montgomery County. (OPH)
- Field Assessment and Support Teams were developed to offer support and guidance to long term care and other facilities experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks. (OPH, DPS, SS)
- Expanded community gardens at the Montgomery County Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) in Norristown with the construction of three raised garden beds. (OCIE)
- Partnered with Pottstown School District to educate students and their families on how to reduce food waste. Posts for Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram were posted on the district’s social media sites and republished in Pottstown Middle School’s newsletter while students learned remotely. (OCIE)
- Subcontracted with Living Hope Farm to deliver fresh produce to Abington-Jefferson Health Children’s Health Clinic for two seasons a year. The program started with 12 families with a total of 50 people enrolled in the program. (OCIE)

NOTE: Department abbreviations are listed on page 23.
Continued support and involvement in the Interfaith Coalition’s work as it developed its mission and core principles, providing faith organizations from all traditions with opportunities to build partnerships and collaborations, culminating in a fall conference with over 70 participants. (HHS)

Continued to expand the Local Leadership Council to partner with early childhood programs, providers, families, school districts, higher education, businesses and funders to promote quality in early learning programs in the county. (ELRC)

Continued work on plans to implement a special, limited funding program to provide childcare funding for populations within Montgomery County. (ELRC)

Collaborated with the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL)/Bureau of Certification to build stronger communication to support early learning providers in continuing their efforts to build quality early learning programs. (ELRC)

Implemented special COVID eligibility regulations to stabilize childcare providers and financially assist families with childcare costs from 3/13/20 to 8/31/20. (ELRC)

Continued a partnership with local colleges by utilizing students to assist with well calls to isolated seniors during COVID lockdown. (OSS)

Continued to partner with municipalities by offering and advertising health and wellness programming for seniors both virtually and in person. (OSS)

2021 IMPLEMENTATION

- Assist municipalities with their ongoing planning, trail building, and transportation work. (PC)
- Continue to work with community partners to implement COVID-19 testing and immunizations through regional sites/partnerships. (OPH)
- Continue COVID-19 contact tracing through community partnerships. (OPH)
- Continue working alongside the Department of Public Safety and other internal partners to post public and accurate COVID-19 data to ensure that the public is informed. (OPH)
- Educate Pottstown School District students about food waste reduction through social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter as well as online newsletters by June 2021. (OCIE)
- Continue to implement a fruit and vegetable prescription program at Lansdale Children’s Health Clinic where health care providers write a prescription voucher for food insecure patients to receive fruits and vegetables from Living Hope Farm by June 2021. (OCIE)
- Continue to develop programs to assist with social isolation in seniors by partnering with school districts and higher education institutions to create intergenerational relationships. (OSS)
- Provide education on alternatives for pain management in order to combat opioid addiction. (ODA, OSS)
- Promote expanded access to Navicates via the “TeleNavigate” service as an additional way of receiving “in-person” assistance from a Navigate, which is critical for those who want to remain safe in their homes or who lack access to affordable transportation. (OCC)
- Partner with other HHS offices to streamline referrals using the county’s intake database, which will improve residents’ customer service experience by expediting connections to additional HHS services via a more efficient platform. (OCC)
- Continue the implementation of a special, limited funding program to provide childcare funding for unserved populations within Montgomery County. (ELRC)
- Implement the ‘Be Strong Families’ program to host virtual Parent Cafes. (ELRC)
- Strengthen collaborations with stakeholders and community organizations including SEPECC (First Up); PA Health Access Network; Child Care Professional Network; PA Early Learning Investment Commission; Parenting, Childcare and Natural Supports Action Team for Montgomery County Reentry Initiative Group; PACCA. (ELRC)
- Develop the Health & Safety Regional Task Force to support childcare providers during COVID-19 and beyond. (ELRC)

2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Bridge projects continued to move forward. In 2020, six bridge construction projects went to construction and two of those were completed. The Butler Pike sinkhole was remediated and the road was opened to vehicular traffic in December. An additional 23 bridges are in various stages of design, engineering, or permitting. (A&I-RB)
- The county repaved 3.08 miles of park entrance roadways and 6.7 miles of county-owned roadways. (A&I-RB)
- Hatfield Township started construction to realign Cowpath and Orvilla Roads using multi-modal grant funds.
- Completed the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update with our planning partners. (PC)
PennDOT awarded $1.27 million from the state’s Automated Red Light Enforcement program for traffic and safety projects in four municipalities.

The county’s transportation grant program (CTP) used revenues from the $5 county vehicle registration fee to reallocate just under $1 million this past year to local transportation projects. In 2020, 6 projects in 7 municipalities received funding. (PC)

Completed PA Turnpike Interchange Study with DVRPC (a result of the Turnpike Corridor Reinvestment Project from 2015), publicly promoted the traffic modeling results, and engaged the PA Turnpike Commission staff on a future strategy to fund and construct remaining interchanges. (PC)

PennDOT began construction on US 202 Section 65S (Morris Road to Hancock Road) in Whitpain and Lower Gwynedd Townships.

PennDOT began construction on early action efforts under the I-76 ICM project to activate variable speed limit signs along the Schuylkill Expressway.

The PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund awarded $1.4 million to Horsham Township for 87 15-foot tall high efficiency streetlights in the Pennsylvania Business Park.

2021 IMPLEMENTATION

- Continue the county’s bridge reconstruction work. (A&I-RB)
- Oversee the Montco Pikes study, which will provide recommendations for future improvements to six of the busiest county-owned roads. (PC)
- Begin construction for the Ridge Pike Improvement Project for the segments in Plymouth, Whitemarsh, and Springfield Townships. (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)

Advanced several trail projects in the county.Awarded the contract for an advanced feasibility study of the Cross County Trail East. Awarded the contract to construct the final portion of the Pennypack Trail between Byberry and County Line Roads. Awarded and commenced feasibility study for the Wissahickon Trail segment between Forbidden Drive and Morris Arboretum. Awarded the design contract for the Schuykill River Trail segment between Industrial Drive and US 422. Awarded the contract for the Germantown Pike bridge feasibility study in Plymouth Township. Advanced the design for the Cross County and Wissahickon Trails in Whitemarsh Township at Erdenheim Farm. (PC)

Awarded Montco 2040 grant funds to local trail projects in Bridgeport, the Perkiomen region, Towamencin, and Upper Providence.

2021 IMPLEMENTATION

- Complete the final Montgomery County segment (northern) of the Pennypack Trail. (PC, A&I-PTHS)
- Continue construction of the Chester Valley Trail Extension and begin constructing the Erdenheim Farm portions of the Cross County and Wissahickon Trails. (PC, A&I-PTHS)
- Complete design of the Schuylkill River Trail 422 Connector. (PC)
- Initiate architectural and engineering design for the Trail Junction Center in Norristown. (PC)
- Complete the 10-Year Open Space and Trails Strategic Plan. (PC)
- Continue the conservation of key properties as identified in the county’s open space priorities report. (PC)
- Commence Return on Environment study update in partnership with DVRPC Southeastern PA Corporation. (PC)
- Hold a Planning Smarter event to publicize the Trail Access, Diversity, & Awareness Plan. (PC)

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

2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

Collaborated with internal and external partners as well as multiple sector groups to give pandemic-related support, guidance and technical assistance. Specific sectors include schools, long-term care facilities, businesses and venues,
In collaboration with the county’s Commerce Department, over 8000 Care Kits were distributed through local Chambers of Commerce to local businesses. Care Kits included items such as signage, hand sanitizer, digital thermometers, and more. (OPH)

- Developed (and distributed to key municipal and non-profit staff) a one-page weekly data analysis of Norristown COVID-19 cases, positivity rate, and demographics so that all are informed and unified in an effort to bring down the number of cases in the county’s most densely populated region. (OPH)

- Worked closely with businesses and venues to give guidance and support regarding best practices during COVID-19. An OPH Health and Safety Plan Checklist was created to allow venues, businesses and others to propose gatherings over 25 (indoor) or 250 (outdoor). (OPH)

- Continued to pursue comprehensive planning efforts to guide future growth and development in our municipalities, including plan adoption in Upper Moreland, Lansdale, and Hatboro. New comprehensive plans were started in Lower Providence, Cheltenham, and Worcester. (PC)

- Began improvements to the Conshohocken SEPTA rail station. This project includes high level platforms, new station building, and an extension to Oak Street. (SEPTA)

- Rebuilt the high level platforms and station canopies at the Elm Street-Norristown station. (SEPTA)

- Schwenksville received a Montco 2040 grant to continue the improvements around its new borough hall - these funds were for a new public plaza. (PC)

- Aimed to help libraries, restaurants, retail, and other institutions pivot to serve their constituencies throughout this year. The county’s RESTART Montco website offered practical advice to municipalities and others to help envision new ways to provide safe open space recreation, outdoor dining, curbside pickups, and housing assistance.

2021 IMPLEMENTATION

- Continue to support the short-term needs of downtowns and businesses through the pandemic with Care Kits and grant funding as available. (CD).

- Continue the Ardmore SEPTA/Amtrak Station and Loop Improvement, with proposed completion in late 2022. (SEPTA)

- Complete comprehensive plans for Upper Gwynedd, New Hanover, and Bridgeport.

- Continue to develop and distribute the one-page weekly data analysis of Norristown COVID-19 cases, positivity rate, and demographics so that all are informed and unified in an effort to bring down the number of cases in the county’s most densely populated region. (OPH)

- Continue to work closely with businesses and venues to give guidance and support regarding best practices during COVID-19. (OPH)

- Use CDBG funds to support street improvements in Bridgeport, Cheltenham, East Greenville, Royersford, and Schwenksville, and sanitary sewer improvements in West Pottsgrove. CDBG funds will also be used to support accessibility improvements at a neighborhood park in Springfield. (HCD)
Sustainable Places

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

2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Sponsored 6 household hazardous waste collection events and the campaign sign recycling program, as well as management of the recycling hotline and website. These are all actions outlined in the county’s municipal waste management plan. (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)
- Continued to promote green stormwater infrastructure by implementing examples at county sites and developing a virtual stormwater BMP tour. (PC)
- Encouraged energy conservation, greenhouse gas reduction, and climate change resiliency in the ongoing justice center construction. (PC)
- Worked with a consultant to complete a draft preliminary permit for a hydroelectric facility on the Norristown Dam (on the Schuylkill River). (PC)

2021 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)
- Work with DVRPC on an analysis of disadvantaged populations and disproportionate flood and heat island impacts. (PC)
- Determine appropriate next actions regarding permitting for the Norristown Dam. (PC)
**GOAL**  Improve stormwater management and reduce the impact of flooding

2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Facilitated the Wissahickon Creek Water Quality Improvement Plan process and the response to the EPA and DEP comments on the plan (to be completed in early 2021). (PC)
- Implemented the county’s MS4 stormwater permit. This year, county staff created several maps to facilitate inspection and maintenance of facilities. The county also continued to meet with the in-house implementation committee to oversee MS4 activities. (PC)

2021 IMPLEMENTATION

- Promote stormwater BMPs through A&I capital improvements planning. (A&I)
- Hold a Planning Smarter event to address how businesses and homeowners can tackle stormwater runoff on their own properties. (PC)
- Continue implementing the requirements of the county’s MS4 permit. (PC)
- Continue facilitating the Wissahickon Creek TMDL planning process and see the plan through to adoption. (PC)
- Update the County Hazard Mitigation Plan (PC)
- Participate as a steering committee member in the DVRPC’s Water Table.

- Repaved Towpath Road that leads to Lock 60. (A&I-PTHS)
- Added a new ranger building at Lower Perkiomen Valley Park. (A&I-PTHS)
- Restored large Upper Schuylkill Valley Park historic barn; improved four animal exhibit spaces; and welcomed new animal residents. (A&I-PTHS)
- Resurfaced (w/ stone) or paved problematic sections of the Perkiomen Trail (approximately 1 mile). (A&I-PTHS)
- Two historic houses were re-roofed with cedar shingles at the Norristown Farm Park. (A&I-PTHS)
- Nearing completion of design rehabilitation to Old Neiffer Road Bridge at Sunrise Mill and Bridge 99 (Perkiomen Trail bridge) near Green Lane Park. (A&I-PTHS)
- Preserved 6 farms under the county’s Farmland Preservation Program. Over the last 30 years, the county has preserved more than 10,000 acres of farmland. (PC)
- Held two virtual agricultural education events on pasture management topics. (MCCD)
- Assisted Perkiomen Valley Trout Unlimited to install native riparian forest buffers along Perkiomen Creek as well as streambank stabilization and fish habitat improvements along the Hosensack Creek. (MCCD)
- Completed twelve riparian buffer enhancement projects across ten acres of land. (MCCD)
- Participated in spotted lanternfly control work and education through state grant funding. (MCCD)

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

2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Formally assisted with the reopening (in conjunction with Upper Providence Township) of a segment of the Schuylkill River East Trail from Lock 60 to Upper Schuylkill Valley Park. (A&I-PTHS)
- Completed a challenging and scenic disc golf course at Green Lane Park and finalized campground improvements. (A&I-PTHS)
- Continued significant external mill and barn restorations at Sunrise Mill. (A&I-PTHS)

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2021 IMPLEMENTATION

- Continue to leverage county and state funds to preserve new farms under the Farmland Preservation Program. (PC)
- Resume planning for the postponed 6th Keep Farming Conference, to be held in 2022. (PC)
- Finalize plans to develop 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 (milk house/barn). (A&I-PTHS)
- Implement Green Lane Park lake study recommendations to improve water quality while simultaneously commencing dam repairs. (A&I-PTHS)
- Restore portions of the interior of Sunrise Mill;
commence Old Neiffer Road Bridge restoration; and repave the old internal road for improved access. (A&I-PTHS)

- Restore (portions) of Peter Wentz barn and restore house balcony. (A&I-PTHS)
- Add a permanent restroom facility to Upper Schuylkill Valley Park. (A&I-PTHS)
- Replace and improve kiosks that convey historic information about park sites. (A&I-PTHS)
- Continue to build capacity and expand partnerships to protect and improve local water quality. (MCCD)
- Continue outreach and education on spotted lanternfly control and eradication. (MCCD and others)

GOAL  Provide more opportunities for residents to exercise and have healthy lifestyles

2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Developed cross-sector COVID-19 guidance for the Montcopa.org website, Facebook page, and to support multiple stakeholder groups. (OPH)
- Created messaging around COVID-19 precautions, testing, and flu immunizations with the cooperation of internal and external partners. (OPH)
- Distributed free PPE Care Kits to approximately 175 childcare providers in the county. (ELRC)
- Distributed approximately $19 million in CARES Act funds from OCDEL to childcare providers in the county. (ELRC)
- Administered the Montco Cares Program Provider and Family grants to support Montgomery County families and child care providers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Montco Cares Program will ensure the financial viability of child care centers in the county. (ELRC)
- Continued collaboration to move forward on the process of automating data collection for the county’s Stepping Up Initiative. (OMH, MCCF, IT)
- Funded four additional school districts through the federal School Violence Prevention grant to receive training to implement evidence-based Social Emotional Learning and Classroom Management Teacher Trainings. (ODA, OMH)
- Adapted prevention trainings to an online format, offering virtual task force meetings, and consulted with community partners in ways to continue their suicide prevention efforts throughout the year. Continued to partner with the Coroner’s office to share real time data, to monitor the impact of the year’s incredible challenges on suicide loss. (SPTF)
- Adjusted the county Crisis Intervention Specialist Training to continue providing local law enforcement and first responders with critical training in crisis de-escalation and management. Trainings were held online, with established enhanced on-site safety protocols and updated technology to continue to include guest speakers and subject matter experts. An increased focus on stress management was made to support folks on the front lines of public safety during the pandemic. (CIS)
- Increased safe physical activity with a comprehensive walking program at the Elmwood Park Zoo through the Junior Inspector Program. In late August, an alternate version of the Junior Inspector Program was released using smart phones and QR codes so that zoo attendees could still learn and participate in the program. (OCIE)
- Continued the Montgomery County Trail Challenge with a goal of having more than 100 people complete all 15 trails, even though it didn’t begin until August. As of November 18, 2020, 1,573 people registered and 173 people completed 5 trails, 79 completed 10 trails, and 2 people completed 15 trails. (OCIE)
- Partnered with the Abington School District to bring Safe Routes to School to Willow Hill Elementary School in Willow Grove, PA. (OCIE)
- Implemented 123 Healthy Me curriculum in 5 classrooms in collaboration with MCIU and Abington-Jefferson Health. MCOPH adapted the program to be pre-recorded and emailed to teachers and families on a monthly basis. (OCIE)
- Implemented the Coordinated Approach to Child Health program (CATCH) at Eisenhower Technology and Leadership Academy in Norristown and will reach grades 5-8. So far, the CATCH team has representatives from food services, physical education, administration, classroom teachers, and support staff. (OCIE)
- Continued to serve those with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) at Resources for Human Development, Montgomery County Recovery Center, currently serving 140 members. MCRC has expanded their outreach efforts into the community even throughout the pandemic.(ODA)
- Awarded a grant to Lower Merion Counseling & Mobile Crisis Service (LMCMCS) to build upon successes in providing access to care for adults living with mental illness and/or substance use disorder as well as children with serious emotional disorders. (OMH)
Reinvigorated the veteran’s shuttle to assist in accessing healthcare. Two new COVID-19 compliant and paratransit shuttle vans were purchased. The county’s veteran’s shuttle provides transportation for life-sustaining support to over 350 veterans and typically makes 1,500 trips per year. This shuttle service is unlike any other in Montgomery County and for these passengers this is their only option for transportation. (OVA)

League of American Bicyclists awarded the Montgomery County government the bronze-level Bicycle Friendly Business status to the Courthouse and One Montgomery Plaza buildings.

Built and released the Get Out And Go streets web app, which enables residents to find low stress streets for bicycling and exercising near their homes. (PC)

2021 IMPLEMENTATION

- Continue to create and share guidance and best practices to an array of stakeholders regarding COVID-19, including messaging for individuals and families. (OPH)
- Continue to educate residents on COVID-19 testing and eventually COVID-19 immunizations and subsequent follow-up regarding quarantine and isolation. (OPH)
- Continue, through community contact tracers, to educate persons who test positive about actions they should take to reduce COVID-19 transmission. (OPH)
- Provide a series of trainings, through the Developmental Disabilities Council grant, for individuals and their caregivers regarding developing healthy relationships and understanding safe boundaries. There will be 8 individuals and families participating in the initial training series. (HHS)
- Work to reduce the rate of suicide deaths in Montgomery County by conducting a minimum of two Questions, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) trainings by June 30, 2021. (OCIE)
- Increase motor vehicle safety among children by conducting a minimum of eight virtual car seat checks through June 2021. (OCIE)
- Increase the number of participants in the Trail Challenge by 200 through June 30, 2021. (OCIE)
- Increase safe physical activity and transportation through utilization of the Safe Routes to School Program with social media messaging. (OCIE)

- Deliver health and wellness programming to seniors through local senior centers as well as virtual events. Partner and advertise with municipalities to broaden our reach. (OSS)
- Research and provide information on how to obtain technology, as well as educational opportunities for using technology, to decrease social isolation in our senior community. (OSS)
- Support seniors facing depression through our Healthy Ideas program by connecting them with local behavioral health programs. (OSS)
- Work to divert those with developmental disabilities from the criminal justice system by participating in a statewide workgroup, providing information to law enforcement through the Police School at Montgomery County Emergency Services, and increasing knowledge and connections with the Public Defender and criminal justice partners. (MH/DD/EI)
- Focus on employment opportunities for individuals with ID and or Autism with a special emphasis on return to work for individuals who became unemployed relative to COVID-19. (DD)
- Collaborate with community partners to continue adapting content and support options to virtual platforms, to allow increased connection to individuals and families unable to attend events in person and make real the promise of flexibility and creativity in how we connect with one another. (SPTF)
- Utilize data analysis to review the curriculum and implementation of the law enforcement Crisis Intervention Specialist (CIS) training programming, ensuring that the school is employing best practices at the critical intersection of mental health crisis, public safety, and social justice. (MH/DD/EI)
- Support teachers and school personnel during the COVID pandemic. To that end, OMH in partnership with Access Services, will develop and provide a self-care training to help educators be resilient during the pandemic. (MH/DD/EI)
- Sponsor training for staff who are supporting young children in the EI and MH systems and continue to work to increase behavioral health screenings for children aged 0-9 through the Elementary Student Assistance Program in order to connect children and families to resources and intervene early. (MH/DD/EI)
- Host virtual Crisis Planning trainings for mental health service providers throughout the county, with a special focus on training mobile services. (MH/DD/EI)
- Increase capacity for the veteran’s shuttle services to take decorated combat veterans to medical providers, other than VA medical centers. (OVA)

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

**2020 ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Oversaw a 22% reduction in average shelter length of stay (from 92 days to 72 days) and a 54% reduction in average length of time for Rapid Re-Housing participants to find housing (from 92 days to 42 days). (YWH)
- Provided 60 Housing Choice Vouchers to families with children experiencing homelessness in partnership with the Montgomery County Housing Authority. (HA/YWH)
- Began a Rapid Re-Housing program for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking in collaboration with Laurel House. (OHCD/YWH)
- Provided 5,170 hotel bookings to 110 highly vulnerable individuals to decongest emergency shelters and provide critical health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. (OHCD/YWH)
- Expanded the Eviction Prevention and Intervention Coalition (EPIC) to a 2nd Municipal District Court in January 2020, then expanded to 5 additional courts in order to respond to the devastating economic impacts of COVID-19. In 2019, 102 evictions were prevented, representing an 86% success rate. (OHCD)
- Launched an emergency rent program to serve the Hispanic/Latino community experiencing housing instability or homelessness in partnership with ACLAMO. (OHCD, YWH)
- Launched a joint transitional housing and rapid re-housing program for unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness in partnership with Valley Youth House. (OHCD, YWH)
- Launched a joint program in conjunction with other Health and Human Service offices, available to those experiencing homelessness who test positive for COVID-19. (OHCD)
- Launched the Your Way Home Emergency Rent & Utility Coalition (ERUC) to raise public and policymaker awareness of the needs of low-income and ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) families and individuals in the county on the brink of homelessness due to poverty caused by a health crisis, job loss, pay inequality, underemployment and/or systemic racism. So far, the ERUC program has distributed $2,354,082 in emergency rent or utility assistance to 697 households impacted by COVID-19. (OHCD, YWH)
- Assisted four applicants in purchasing properties within the county utilizing the county’s First Time Homebuyers Program, as well as 5 additional first time homebuyers who are in agreements to purchase within the next 45 days. These closings will house 23 persons in owner-occupied housing. (OHCD)
- Received a $1.8 million grant from HUD for lead hazard abatement and healthy homes. Three units are projected to receive lead abatement through this grant by the end of the calendar year. (OHCD, OPH)
- Completed closing and construction for the Susie Clemens House, 60 units of senior housing in Hatfield. (OHCD)
- Completed closing and rehabilitation is underway for Willows at East Greenville, the conversion of a former factory into 71 units of housing for families and individuals. (OHCD)
- Ensured construction is underway and 61% complete as of June 2020 on Summit House, 64 units of senior housing in Jenkintown. (OHCD)
- Completed rehab of a home, in partnership with Genesis Housing, and sold to a qualified homebuyer before the end of the fiscal year. (OHCD)
- Purchased The Chalet, a property in Hatfield Township, to rehab the facility for rentals with current partial occupancy. The facility has 4 units for formerly homeless clients. (OHCD)
- Working with the county, Habitat for Humanity will complete a rehab of four townhomes in the Hatfield area and resell to qualified homebuyers. (OHCD)
- Continued to rebuild North Hills Manor in Upper Dublin Township in conjunction with Pennrose Properties. Upon completion in 2021, 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 ‘visitable’ standards for populations using wheelchairs. (HA)
- Finished a draft of a strategic county-level plan, Homes For All, to support housing construction for people at all price points. (PC, CD, OHCD)
2021 IMPLEMENTATION

- Continue lead abatement work with HUD grant funding for 10 additional units. (OHCD)
- Finalize a pilot project to provide housing and supportive services to individuals re-entering the community from the Montgomery County Correctional Facility. (OHCD, YWH)
- Launch The Sprout Initiative 2.0 in partnership with Norristown School District, which will provide housing stabilization services to students and their families experiencing homelessness. (OHCD, YWH)
- Plan strategies for providing housing support to students experiencing homelessness in partnership with Montgomery County Community College and Gwynedd Mercy University. (OHCD, YWH)
- Launch a new Community Based Care Management Program (CBCMP) with a focus on housing and partner with Your Way Home to expand the Rapid Re-Housing program. The focus will be on individuals who are psychiatrically admitted to inpatient and are homeless. (OMCS, OHCD)
- Publish the Homes for All strategic plan and begin its implementation - a collaborative effort of several departments. (PC, CD, HHS-OHCD)
- Create an online municipal housing assessment tool to help local governments better understand housing affordability needs. (PC)

GOAL   Enhance community character and protect neighborhoods

2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

✓ Engaged internal and external stakeholders to support the work of COVID-19 prevention and containment in their communities. Resident engagement and training will support the ongoing effort to reduce COVID-19 transmission and ultimately support a vaccination campaign. (OPH)
✓ Continue to 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. (OPH)
✓ Develop and establish a recruitment, education, and training program for county employees that enables them to volunteer at Points of Dispensing and in response to other disasters. (OPH)
✓ Continue our partnership with acute care hospitals and post-acute facilities in the county to incorporate facilities into the Point of Dispensing Program and encourage facilities to join their respective emergency support zone. (OPH)
✓ Collaborate with the emergency support zones to develop projects and tools that increase the readiness and ability to meet compliance regulations for healthcare facilities within Montgomery County. (OPH)
✓ Administer the Points of Dispensing Program by exercising one Open POD and one Closed POD per calendar year. (OPH)
✓ Completed four Community Development Block Grant municipal projects, which included curb ramp projects in Hatboro, Jenkintown, and West Conshohocken, and a street improvement project in Royersford. These projects provide accessible walkways for the community. (OHCD)
✓ Completed 3 home rehabs this year under the county’s Owner-Occupied Rehab Program. There are an additional 3 rehabs in progress, and 2-3 to be started. (OHCD)
✓ Activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on March 8th to manage the COVID-19 pandemic and remained fully staffed for about three months, during which senior County officials, including the Board of Commissioners, oversaw the execution of the Pandemic Response Plan. Several new positions were created within the Department to support the response, including a Chief Medical Officer and Chief Science Officer. (PS)
✓ Managed simultaneous public safety incidents. The Civil Unrest Rapid Response Plan was implemented for the first time in late spring to manage multi-agency responses to multiple locations for several nights of civil unrest. Two major storms hit this area, resulting in a record-breaking number of calls for help and follow-up coordination by our Emergency Management division, as well as assisted in the planning and management of county operations for the primary and general elections. (PS)
✓ Continued to handle approximately 2,300 incidents every day at the 9-1-1 Emergency Call Center, and found new ways to provide training for our local emergency responders. Prior to this year, the Fire Academy had never offered an online course. We now have 21 online courses available and have trained 580 students in 43 sessions. (PS)
✓ Completed the multi-year project to expand and upgrade the county’s 700/800 MHz public safety radio system which will provide highly reliable voice, data, and paging communications capabilities for years to come. (PS)
✓ Coordinated the Countywide Records Management System (RMS) with 33 agencies participating (and room for more),
including the District Attorney, county detectives, and Sheriff’s Office. It provides an opportunity to share critical, standardized information among agencies. The county purchased the RMS and made it available, and the only cost to users is annual service fees. (PS)

- Made Street Smart, our “all-hazards” intelligence sharing program accessible to all municipal and county criminal justice agencies, as well as non-municipal agencies like the FBI, Pennsylvania State Police, and Delaware Valley Intelligence Center. (PS)

- Continued to obtain grants for the in-car Automatic License Plate Reader (ALPR) program. To date, we have provided 40 units to municipal and county agencies. In 2020, we also obtained a grant to install fixed ALPRs at seven selected intersections. These devices identify stolen cars and wanted persons, as well as provide valuable Homeland Security intelligence. (PS)

- Continued to improve our opioid response program to address a rapid increase in overdoses. We dispense naloxone to municipal police departments and other agencies when supplies allow. In addition, a new innovative program, Community Paramedicine, will allow specially trained medics to proactively work to prevent overdoses and assist with COVID-19 testing and vaccine distribution. (PS)

- Oversaw training at the Tactical Response Training Center (TRTC), currently utilized by 43 of 50 municipal police departments in the county for free weapons training on a regular basis, discharging about one million rounds every year. Fifteen additional agencies, including state and federal law enforcement, regularly utilize the TRTC, for a fee. (PS)

- Distributed, at no cost, 370 First Net Gateway products for police in-car mobile computers by our Technology Division. We await an additional 310 units for deployment to fire and EMS agencies. We continued to explore additional Geographic Information Systems (GIS) resources, as GIS is now at the heart of most of our technology and intelligence capabilities. (PS)

- Added several new interfaces to our Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, including a connection to PECO for instant notification in utility emergencies as well as to other Records Management Systems used by some agencies. This has significantly enhanced our interoperability goals. (PS)

- Increased our police training on de-escalation techniques in the face of increased civil unrest and have purchased upgraded firearms virtual reality/simulation training technology. We have converted space at the Public Safety Training Campus to house a firearms simulation prop (“shoot/don’t shoot”) that covers three sides of a standard classroom. This training is critical to helping officers correctly assess threats to themselves or others. (PS)

- Made significant progress with deploying the nearest units to life-threatening emergencies, regardless of municipal boundaries. The initial dispatch to all structure fires now includes the closest fire company and most ambulance agencies have opted in to allow us to send the closest ambulance to critical incidents. Our goal is to get all EMS agencies to participate in the “nearest unit” dispatch plan and to have the nearest units identified by GIS capability in their mobile data computers, rather than their station location, for increased accuracy. (PS)

- Worked with the county’s planning commission to begin discussing ways to assist municipalities in addressing reduced staffing of volunteer fire companies, to find a more coordinated regional approach to finding a cost-effective way to fill their staffing needs. (PS)

- Broadcast reliable, continuous information over an FM radio station with an updated loop of community outreach in several languages. This is livestreamed on the internet with the ability to broadcast live for updates during disasters. An increased social media presence helps to update the public with relevant information. (PS)

### 2021 IMPLEMENTATION

- Implement the POD plan through the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine to county residents. (OPH)

- Identify additional locations where CC can provide Navicate services at partner organizations in isolated and underserved areas all across the County. (CC)

- Continue to 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. (OPH)

- Continue to oversee the recruitment, education, and training program for employees that enables them to be utilized as volunteers at Points of Dispensing, for ongoing COVID-19 assistance, and in response to other disasters. (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. (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) which will include other HHS/county offices working with emergency responders to assess and refer people with access and functional needs to local resources during a disaster. (CC) |
| Identify additional locations where Navicate services can be provided at partner organizations in isolated and underserved areas across the county. (CC) |
Vibrant Economy

GOAL  Improve transportation access to businesses

2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

✓ PennDOT completed construction to replace and widen the US 422 bridge over the Schuylkill River.
✓ The PA Turnpike Commission completed construction to widen the roadway from milepost 31 (Lansdale Interchange) north to milepost 35 (Creamery Road) along the Northeast Extension.
✓ Completed construction of Phase 3 of the Lafayette Street Extension Project, which finishes the county’s portion of this project. (PC)

2021 IMPLEMENTATION

■ The PA Turnpike Commission will design the Lafayette Street highway interchange in an ongoing process.
■ Begin construction on the 309 Connector Phase 2 Project. (PennDOT)
■ Advocate for improved turnpike interchanges per the recommendations of the Turnpike Corridor Reinvestment Study and its 2017 update. (PC)
■ 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

2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

✓ Restructured the Commerce Department over the past 18 months to add additional economic development programs to the redevelopment authority including a county supported economic development loan program, a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania supported economic development loan program, and the authorization of the C-PACE financing program.
✓ Continued construction 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 RACP grants in 2020 include the Central Emergency Services Facility in Upper Providence, Arcadia University, Discovery Labs in Upper Merion, Einstein Medical/Moss Rehab in Cheltenham, the Jeffersonville Golf Club in West Norriton, Laurel House in Upper Gwynedd, and Collegeville’s Perkiomen Bridge Hotel (among many others). Pottstown formed a land bank to help control and acquire blighted properties - with the goal of getting them back on the tax rolls.

2021 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

2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Launched the Montco Site Select Initiative, a multi-pronged approach to helping interested parties find suitable locations in the county. (CD)
- Facilitated the relocation of the PA Careerlink® Montgomery County to the Human Services Center in Norristown. (CD)
- Selected the Sustainable Energy Fund as the Commercial Program Assessed Cleaning Energy Program, or C-PACE, program administrator for the county. (RDA)
- Achieved the status of a Certified Economic Development Organization for the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority (PIDA) portfolio of economic development loan programs. (RDA)
- Continued to assist the local workforce. In 2020, more than 800 job seekers registered for virtual employment workshops and recruitment events. The MontcoWorks*NOW program served 77 youth and young adults with career counselling, paid work experiences, internships, training and high school equivalency programs. And the Employment, Advancement and Retention Network (EARN) program assisted 146 public assistance recipients (TANF and SNAP) through virtual career development, job search activities, and in-depth case management. (CD)

2021 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)

GOAL  Flexibly adapt to changing market conditions and demographics

2020 ACHIEVEMENTS

- Developed and administered (through the Redevelopment Authority of Montgomery County) the MontcoStrong Small Business Grant Program and the MontcoStrong Non-Profit Restoration and Resiliency Grant Program. Approximately $20,000,000 in grants were awarded to eligible small businesses and non-profit entities. (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)
- Helped manage and support the Montgomery County Complete Count Committee including the production and translation of promotional materials for 2020 Census outreach activities. (PC, CC)

2021 IMPLEMENTATION

- Assist with local economic recovery with a grant program aimed at local restaurants. (CD)
- Continue to participate in and contribute to regional forums on economic opportunities and demographic changes. (CD)
- Evaluate the way data is distributed and publicized with the release of the 2020 Census. (PC, CC)
- Create 2050 Long-Range Forecasts with DVRPC for population and employment. (PC)
**GOAL** Facilitate the marketing of the county and its assets

**2020 ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Developed and released three bicycle tourism routes with the help of the Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board. These routes include Homes and Gardens of the Main Line, Bridgeport Hills Will Test Your Cycling Skills, and a Valley Forge Tour. (PC)
- Major events were severely curtailed this year due to COVID-19. But residents found new ways to explore the county - usage on our trail system and activity in local parks increased and outdoor recreation spots like the Elmwood Park Zoo continued to be popular.
- The Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board launched the “Make It Main Street” campaign to underscore that there’s lots to enjoy close to home in the downtowns of Montgomery County.
- Through June of 2020, the county lost an estimated $300 million in visitor spending (compared to the same time period in 2019). This includes hotel room spending, income from lost jobs, and tax revenue. However, many hotels took the opportunity to pivot towards renovations and by the end of this year, the county is anticipated to have 81 hotels and more than 9,400 hotel rooms available for occupancy.

**2021 IMPLEMENTATION**

- Continue to grow the county’s share of the state’s tourism industry as the return of big events continues to draw visitors.
- Continue to work with the VFTCB to promote the county’s regional sports facilities, bicycling amenities, and other attractions. (PC)
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 6 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 along Markley Street in Norristown.
■ Continuing US 202 reconstruction in Whitpain Township, Lower Gwynedd Township, and East Norriton Township from Johnson Highway to Hancock Road.
■ Continuing reconstruction and widening of the I-476 Northeast Extension beyond the Lansdale interchange.
■ Continuing Route 422 improvements around Pottstown. 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 Turnpike interchange of the Lafayette Street Extension Project.
■ Continuing the implementation of traffic management technology along I-76 and its parallel roads.
■ Launching year five of the County Transportation Grant Program to financially partner with municipalities on needed improvements.

92 percent of residential development and 98 percent of nonresidential development was built in our growth areas in 2019.
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.

### Growth and Preservation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area Type</th>
<th>Total Square Footage</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Designated Growth Areas</td>
<td>1,555,315</td>
<td>97.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Resource Areas</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation and/or Preserved Areas</td>
<td>36,646</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Percentages do not sum to 100% due to rounding.
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 original project listed in Montco 2040 - a second bridge in Collegeville - has been supplanted by a project to realign Germantown and Ridge Pikes outside Collegeville.
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.

Numbered boxes refer to specific projects as described in the Transportation Vision section of Montco 2040: A Shared Vision.
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.paturnpike.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.