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Dear Planning Board and Staff:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the staff recommendations on the Thrive 2050 issues report dated 12.12.19. We applaud the direction and attention to key elements needed to advance the framework for the Thrive 2050 plan. MCA offers these comments/suggestions:

Connectedness - Unequal access to opportunities - Page 7

- **Provide for equitable access to critical utilities including broadband**

Healthy and Sustainable Environment - Climate Change - Page 15

Recommended **edit**:

- Meeting the challenges of climate change and reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions will require a **strengthened** commitment to conserving and **enhancing** natural areas and other green open space, and limiting development footprint and impervious cover as key strategies to protect water quality and handle increasing stormwater.

Water/Sewer - Page 15

Suggested addition to questions:

4. How do we ensure the long-term viability of well (groundwater aquifer) and septic systems serving rural communities and businesses outside the WSSC water/sewer envelope?

The Agricultural Reserve - Page 16

- Recommended **edit**: The Agricultural **and Open Space** Reserve
As we face species loss globally and locally, it should not be underestimated how important native habitat (forest/grassland/meadow/stream/river) in the Reserve is to native species preservation.
- We would suggest some reference to the importance of the Reserve in connecting and educating residents to the natural world. In addition, the absence of reference to the importance of historic preservation (Countywide) and opportunities for public involvement through tourism/education is striking. Perhaps this could be referenced in the last section on culture and art?

We look forward to working with staff and stakeholders as the plan advances and, again, thank the staff for their diligence to providing a comprehensive and equitable framework within which we can craft a plan that will support a diverse and thriving county.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Taylor", enclosed within a circular flourish.

Caroline Taylor
Executive Director

Cc: MCA Board