

Community Conversation Questions

1. What do you like most about living in Prince William County? (strengths)
 - The diverse atmosphere, where residents have easy access to both rural and urban opportunities, as well as easy access to the DC area.
 - The relaxed atmosphere surrounded by nature and the water.
 - Diversity within the community as well as school systems.
 - Great shopping centers and restaurants.
 - Multiple avenues and routes for commuting out of Prince William.
 - The opportunity to grow small businesses.
2. What do you like least about living in Prince William County? (weaknesses)
 - Traffic (keep repeating the same problem and not seeing any improvement)
 - No metro to area
 - Lack of diversity of restaurants and shopping (compared to Fairfax, DC); too many chain restaurants.
 - Lack of clean energy buses
 - No viable nightlife for adults (other than bars), as well as limited opportunities for youth to hang out outside of school.
 - Overcrowding in schools especially on the eastern side.
 - Lack of diversity in the PWC police.
 - Lack of communication from government to citizens about county/community issues.
 - Lack of public swimming locations and parks especially on the eastern side.
 - Not enough homeless shelters
 - No mentor programs for adults seeking jobs-day care vouchers, gas cards, skills training for those seeking higher paying jobs.
 - Very rarely subsidizes education, need more funding in our school system.
 - Providing more assistance for our low-income citizens (daycare, gas, etc.)
 - Lack of planning for development, subdivisions are built before roads.
3. If you were in charge, what would you change about Prince William County?
 - Using the river to help limit traffic and commuting. Need county support for the fast ferry (cost effective)
 - Improve the PRTC, create more routes in/out of PWC (especially DC)
 - Create volunteer services/committees to include resident participation in county issues
 - Lack of community emergency response teams (CERT)
 - Create a new department that focuses on continuous improvement-longer range planning, 10, 25 yrs.
 - Popularize the county to bring new residents and families.
 - Offer more affordable housing options, especially independent living.
 - Increase community morale initiatives (PWC stars, talent shows, etc.)

- Create a homeless center.
 - Establish an Adult Mentor Program that is open to all PWC residents-will have a prisoner division to help rehabilitate inmates.
 - Establish synergy in the current county programs
 - Educate public on the county budgetary process and how the school funding works.
4. What do you believe should be the **top 3 priorities for the community** over the next 4 - 5 years?
- Transportation as a major focus to impede traffic
 - Education incentives
 - The county is growing, must increase funds to have the best schools
 - Business development
 - Need more taxpayers and corporations to increase funds-corporate centers
 - Start-up offices to help young entrepreneurs get off the ground
 - Support small businesses
 - Create quality jobs within the county (less commuting)
 - Environmental chapter: clean energy buses, solar panels, and EV chargers for cars.
 - Affordable housing to meet the needs of our growing county.
 - Morale initiatives to bring funding and attention to our county. Reimage and rebrand PWC, become more with the modern times
 - More community resources: pools, parks, sustainable sidewalks, etc.
5. What other comments or insights do you want to share that would be important to PWCs strategic planning process?
- Create a volunteer team to help bring attention to the county and aid in community/county wide issues
 - Ensure that community needs are in the thoughts of our delegates.
 - Have had a hard time prioritizing community/housing growth over commercial growth.
 - Need for more communication in the county. Many residents are unaware of what is occurring in their own communities.
 - Must have more spaces for meetings within communities and neighborhoods-convention center.
 - Help engage communication and planning throughout the county.
 - Concerns about local hospitals and trauma centers. With COVID, are they being strained or need extra capacity?
 - Lack of mental health facilities for youth (specifically) as well as adults.
 - Road safety specifically about schools
 - Create safe routes to school so kids can walk and bike.
 - Look at exemplary communities and use them as a model.

- Offer more community conversations. The virtual formats make it much easier for people to attend.

Other Comments/Questions

- How can we help businesses start up to have locally run restaurants?
 - Offer them tax incentives
 - Making it easier for workers who live in PWC to get restaurants and other jobs in PWC, rather than prioritizing commuting to other jurisdictions
- Would like PWC to be known for how to do things right.
- Install community announcement billboard