

Community Conversation

1. What do you like most about living in Prince William County? (Strengths of County)

- Educational opportunities -schools and Universities (GMU)
- Diversity – unique particularly in the Human Services area—great relationships with HS and nonprofits and work together for good; less duplication of efforts; try and help and support one another
- Diversity – cultural wealth; majority minority
- Schools in unprecedented position—leadership making huge steps forward
- Beautiful natural areas- Q Creek Bay; PW Forest Parks and Neabsco Creek Boardwalk
- Education- elementary schools (miss school choice) impressed with administration, teachers and facilities and diversity great
- Affordability of area- pretty great house in pretty great neighborhood on one income ; multi -level development of housing and keeping up with growing population
- Traffic – with EZ Pass into Tysons can get there in 24 minutes and Pentagon 22 min and DC 26 minutes; Traffic inside PWC just not that bad; if leverage off hot lanes and study paths—PW feels centrally located
- Diversity in area
- Community – subdivisions—peacefulness; feel at ease and safe in most areas
- Proximity—don't like traffic, but when not traffic, proximity to NOVA and DC is good about 35 minutes in DC or MD to get to restaurants
- Culture- Arts, Parks – lots of things to do in area
- Great job at maintaining cleanliness and streets and atmosphere—lots of effort into maintaining aesthetics of county and proud of that
- Public Safety – police and fire exemplary and due terrific job
- Library System -love them
- Hylton Performing Arts – so many new things brought into PWC
- Play -grounds – love variety and choices and available for no cost

2. What do you like least about living in Prince William County?

- Traffic – Woodridge/Dale City/Dumfries not bad, but commuting to DC tough to pay \$20 to go one way with EZ Pass

- Squall and Poor Planning/Tree cutting; focus on roads rather than mass transit, pedestrian safety
- Lack of economic development; less chain restaurants
- Divisiveness in East vs. West in County—rural vs. suburban
- Lack of equal treatment of residents; urban planning; go with low income first; how Black and Brown are treated—more work to be done
- Environmental policies – lack of leadership when comes to clean energy; walkable paths and dependency on cars and this effects low income most; lack of public transportation; lack of keeping good environment in mind; need to work with nature instead of cutting
- Not enough places for Teens to hang out or have fun – end up traveling further which is more dangerous
- Take issue with Racial disparities; Police – 2019-0 racial biases
- Issues with political arguments from some of supervisors – invited dialogue to learn more about issues but haven't had any communication from Board to learn about issues
- Transportation Hubs overcrowded -Commute to DC – issue in PW in lots overflowing for slugging or commuting on buses—makes commuting impractical---more investment in hubs for slugging or bus riding or trains-huge necessity as people move southward
- Economic development – have to drive to Manassas for family friendly events or to attend plays; great to see something that would foster local businesses and more entertainment beyond hiking and parks—more play areas; theatres
- We are ADA compliant but not ADA convenient when comes to people with disabilities ; some slight modifications at FE have been made but really inaccessible for people in wheelchairs; orthopedic clinic across from Sentara hospital and have two small places for handicapped parking and way far away from entrance of building—only two spaces and our county can't do much about that

- Planning permits – frustrating going from one window to another and spending time waiting—couple years ago—perhaps have improved but hearing some similarities
- Transportation – never used the river; know studies done but County hasn't used river; with growth should consider using river; when traffic jam you have to sit because no throughways
- Build out infrastructure for transportation – at rate growing as County, current infrastructure can't support growth experiencing; density brings businesses so if greater density have lure for more businesses which brings more jobs but should focus on growth of infrastructure with growth of population—not see roads being built; no public transportation to take from East to West part of County---if is, so few and far between; important for reliable transportation for lower income to get to jobs

3. If you were in charge, what would you change about Prince William County?

- Smart Growth – Work, Live, Play so don't have to commute; less emphasis on roads although some do need to be built;
- Repair environment- storm water and Chesapeake

4. What do you believe should be the top 3 priorities for the community over the next 4 - 5 years?

- Must maintain some green area in PWC- Rural Crescent ; green spaces must be protected so as not to end up like Fairfax County
- Investment in transportation – tough to drive in County and toward DC and Fairfax
- Growth – economic but preservation of open space while pursue economic growth and business investment
- Local Government to invest in greater online capabilities –increasingly communication happens through email; online forms and not a lot of opportunity to interact online with local government; usually 3-4 emails before I get anyone to respond if I hear a response at all—talking to next generation of voters and constituents who comfortable communicating online

- Climate Action Plan- to plan for shift toward renewable sustainable energy and climate resiliency with flooding events
- Smart growth – walkable, bikeable paths not dependent on cars to move around
- Equity and equality for all residents – low and affordable housing and equity for all communities
- Transportation
- Economic Development
- World Class community inclusive of all ethnic communities inclusive of youth and aging—give young people something to come back to community for
- Increase Tree Canopy improvement goal and measure over decades
- Meet Commonwealth standards for surface water- nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment
- Van Buren completing last gap will help in mobility
- Everyone feels safe in community
- Focused economic development
- Support most vulnerable
- Education – leverage schools to allow students affordable access to associates degrees
- Transportation
- Economic development-bring in more businesses to PWC---how Wegman area boomed and how brought jobs; develop Rt One corridor- help with sustainability and help with students going to Community College, and give something to do
 - not active incentives but looking at zoning for mixed used plans; or incentivizing local business to bring more local character (chains rather than local character restaurants) or makes businesses more bikeable or walkable--
 - getting there by lowering taxes rather than offering money toward certain projects

5. What other comments or insights do you want to share that would be important to PWC's strategic planning process?

- What is the plan for the Route One Corridor? In Triangle took away McDonald's and widened road but nothing—will that happen to Rt 1--- addressed by Dumfries Mayor-to widen and offer main street –to be

completed within next 10 years; not clear what's happening in Triangle—
directed to Supervisor

- Transportation Garage out near Westgate – super critical to accommodate growth or any other commuter type lots and plan for where transportation funding is coming from
- Demoralized by whole Mental Health System – if could get appropriate care, some people could turn lives around—need MH Care
- No kill shelter for animals