

## **Community Conversation**

### **1. What do you like most about living in Prince William County?**

- The open space provided throughout PWC, hopes it can be maintained.
- The diversity within the community in regards to people, restaurants, shopping centers, etc. Great proximity between urban and rural, as well as access between DC and Richmond.
- Nature as well as the abundance of trees present throughout PWC.
- Incredibly well managed in regards to security.
- Great facilities such as libraries and playgrounds that are presented to community members.
- Great school systems and great staff/leaders that help mentor and teach these kids.

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

- The green space is being built over with neighborhoods, shopping centers, very concerning for the future. There is a lack of balance between nature and infrastructure.
- Repeating past experiences regarding transportation and traffic, overbuilding within the community does not help with this.
- Lack of citizen participation within government processes
- Not impressed in the school system, especially among staff members. Fear and concern towards the budget.
- Large abundance of cars in neighborhood streets due to many people living in a single household - Lack of affordable housing.
- Facilities and recreational centers have not been expanded to accompany the growing population in Prince William.
- Lack of businesses and employers in the area (people must commute).
- Building more neighborhoods and housing before infrastructure like roads and overpasses are created.
- Lack of focus on quality child care as well as pre-schools.

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

- Give youth an outlet to express their concerns and allow them to serve in the community.
- Making the most of our land by creating more sidewalks and keeping green space. Building parks between neighborhoods and making the community more walkable.
- Give more security and resources to lower income communities.
- Giving more home energy to houses that are inefficient, like older homes.
- Put infrastructure in place before buildings and homes.
- Office of children in PWC that focus on children in the ages before preschool.
- More robust programs for mental health as well as substance abuse.

- Slow down residential development and enhance services and amenities we have currently.
  - Address the issue of homelessness within the county
  - Lack of places for youth to hang out as well as neighbors to gather.
  - Build an income base so we can pay for all of these services.
  - The comprehensive plan is a good piece of work, but we don't follow through on it
  - Things we approve within the budget are inconsistent with the needs of the community.
  - Plans that are approved are not consistent with what we say we need
4. **What do you believe should be the top 3 priorities for the community over the next 4-5 years?**
- Economic development - must bring in more local jobs as well as affordable transportation and housing.
  - Fix homelessness
  - Fix transportation such as buses or TranSystems
  - Fix green space by reducing land development
  - Attract communities and programs to bring in funds for the community
  - Protecting the rural crescent, use it as a huge asset for our community.
  - Teach students in degrees in trade such as plumbing, electrical, etc. (help teach students who do not plan on attending college)
  - Need more focus on sustainable communities (live, work, play)
  - Need an environmental plan to help aid in energy efficiency, carbon emissions, as well as other issues. Get cars off of the road. Allow for greater communal transportation such as buses, include walkable paths to reduce car use.
  - Create a base to support our services- not just building homes.
  - Realize that large corps aren't going to come here but maybe the programs that are part of the larger companies might be able to begin, thrive and grow from here.
  - Get cars off of the road-people should be able to walk places like shops and jobs and transportation.
  - Reestablish trade schools or similar programs
5. **What other components or insights do you want to share that would be important to PWC's strategic planning process?**
- Did not use data centers as cash cows for tax revenue. Take up a lot of space as well as resources like water and energy.
  - Once the plan is set, work with each department head to create a list of goals for each year. Then the government will give them the funds for these goals.

- Show community members how they will integrate these goals into their plans for the year and years ahead.
- Strengthen community communication with the government. Create committees and volunteer teams including youth.
- Figure out a way to have integrated decision making for land use and transportation and all county department plans.
- Focus on quality over quantity with amenities and facilities in the community.
- The 5 year plan must be realistic in order to get things done. Lack of a grounding with reality-must make sure we finish what we start in regards to issues and solutions.
- Having sector sections in these plans that are specific to different parts of the county that need to be addressed.
- Make sure we have a blueprint for community growth- we make big plans but we don't finish them