

Community Conversation

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

- Libraries
- Playgrounds and green spaces
- Diversity enriches us
- Affordability
- Schools
- How clean PWC keeps parkways and how Public works keeps areas free from litter
- How professionally Police Dept. handles itself and how helpful and friendly they are
- Different programs for high school and ability to transfer for programs (Specialty schools)
- Drunk driving enforcement by Police Dept
- The natural beauty of PWC – lots of trees and other greenery
- Outdoors and walking trails

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

- Heavy traffic
- Lack of good jobs and people have to leave to get good jobs
- Overcrowded schools
- Way the BOCS seem to like to maintain status quo – we don't carry through very well on plans. Need more action by the BOCS.
- Trails are not everywhere. Accessible and money is needed for development and maintenance
- Traffic speed enforcement
- Animal welfare – unnecessary euthanasia. Keep building the animal shelter.
- Too much coddling to cars – spend time fixing pedestrian and bike lanes
- Separation of county and schools – need study to integrate duplicate functions of county and schools ex vehicle maintenance and facility maintenance
- Fix bus system to improve usage
- Need more culture – meaning art & culture
- Need plan to reduce emissions
- Need plan to create jobs
- Get people out of cars and provide more public transportation
- Not many opportunities for lower income and people of color – example housing

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

- Look at overall police functions and what goals and objectives of what we want them to accomplish. Make sure they have adequate funding.
- Offer more affordable housing
- Incorporate more land in plans to facilitate industrial growth
- Get Blue line from Springfield to Woodbridge and beyond
- Capitalize on existing open space and trails like Neabsco Boardwalk to promote tourism an economic development – Create more spaces like this
- Achieve 35% commercial tax base – to pay for more schools and social services
- Go after data centers
- Fostering educational institutions like Mason and science center – to make more attractive to innovative businesses
- Need more diversity in jobs
- Businesses that co=locate with data centers bring more jobs
- Need to establish an Economic Development Authority
- Rural Crescent needs to be looked at by piece and considered for tax based industrial development
- Rural Crescent has elitist area with large acreage
- Excellent quality of life – good schools attract employers should improve our image so people want to live here

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

- Be careful with economic development - concerned about data centers- clean energy jobs
- Develop community energy plan
- Capitalize on our natural beauty – enhance it, save it and promote it
- Walkable and bikeable ways
- Equity and low-income housing and job opportunities
- Sustainability chapter in plan
- More opportunities for industrial growth
- Balance job and growth
- Outreach immigrant population
- More funding for Mental and substance abuse resources and facilities
- Strong infrastructure within county to support remote schooling and employment
- Get to 35% commercial tax base implemented and enforced
- Economic development authority to create jobs and have training for jobs

- Re-evaluate rural crescent which is elitist
- Promote community college education
- Better outreach by county to let people know about human resources that are available
- Create a climate action & resilience plan
- Create a clean energy plan
- More resources for immigrant and minority families in our community with equal access to transportation.
- PWC establish own identity to make special places more known to people – provide market of places that make PWC special
- Hi-speed internet across the county with open access and all children needs ability to access internet
- Clean energy and green technologies
- Be leader with clean energy among NoVa counties
- Better transportation for low income families – more walkable
- Evaluate rural crescent sector by sector
- Create in county well-paying jobs
- Raise commercial tax base and lower property/residential taxes
- Climate resilience plan

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

- Look at putting together another Future's Commission
- County used to have performance measure reporting which benefitted holding everyone accountable but also benchmarked with other counties – something along those lines
- Blue ribbon business panels used to meet with BOCS to hear from business so we can be competitive – Help with employment planning
- Add a sustainability chapter to the Strategic Plan
- Consider equity and equality throughout the Strategic Plan
- We need to outreach more to community in regards to social climate and what we should be doing
- Next survey to focus on areas we know need addressing
- These things cost money - 35% commercial tax base goal is important
- Look at impact COVID has with small businesses going out of business and things that are changing and have visionary thinking about adapting to new reality. Use Zoom meetings, online school – Maximize abilities in county
- JDC needs more evaluation before creation of it – More insight into why there are juveniles detainees being prosecuted - need to attack root of problems
- Lack of action and concern on climate = prioritize sustainability

- More walkable and bikeable trails efforts to control emissions on our roads
- Concern about second asphalt plant near Mullen Elementary - local environmental justice issue