

Community Conversation Questions

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

- County has identified itself as a place people want to live and place when people want to do business
- There is a lot to offer. You don't have to leave the county to get what you need. It is comfortable.
- More country-being in Rural Crescent rather than a built up environment
- Easy access to I-66 and Loudon and Fairfax counties for access to jobs

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

- Traffic coming up from 29 from Fauquier and points south
- Must commute to find good jobs-especially high tech/high paying jobs
- Lack of affordable housing
- Overcrowded schools
- Secondary roads are being overused because of too much traffic
- Secondary roads are not monitored by police
- Rural Crescent should not be treated as one size fits all-some impacts have changed and we need to realize that. Rural Crescent has some benefit to the county
- It seems that there is development just for development's sake in Gainesville district vs. a clear, strategic plan. Increasing semi-truck traffic on local roads.
- Not enough infrastructure development
- No climate plan
- Not walkable, bikeable community
- Traffic is the symptom of problems we have created from not having smart planning in our growth
- This continual, on-going battle to wisely manage and preserve the rural crescent.

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

- Our county should have a climate action to prepare for the worsening effects of the climate crisis.
- Implement green technologies and clean energy. It's critical that our county does more to address sustainability and climate change.
- Our last strategic plan called for a 35% tax base. We are not there.
- Loudon County has the best tax base, the best schools, etc.
- Work on affordable housing.
- Brace for impact of COVID on small businesses

- We need a strategic plan focus on environment and sustainability, with a chapter - so the budget will prioritize clean energy, restoring streams, expanding the tree canopy, building a trail network with Safe Routes to Schools, and of course creating walkable communities so we don't need to drive everywhere for everything.
- More affordable housing-especially in the Eastern end of the county
- There is no more commercial land left to develop
- Let us take advantage of the current situation and enhance what is good so workers want to telecommute from this county
- What is the county doing to put more emphasis on re-development of existing, but worn-out, commercial areas along 234 and Rt 1?
- Build Out Analysis should answer the question "where to locate commercial development"
- Rural Area is a valuable tool for managing growth and minimizing taxes required for new infrastructure. We can grow ag-related jobs there, as demonstrated by Loudoun, without adding industrial-scale data centers or houses. For example: Wineries, breweries, horse riding, CSA's, specialty crops - as demonstrated at Antioch. Loudoun has shown the way.

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

- Jobs in the county so we do not have to commute out of the county
- Develop an Economic Development Authority like our Service Authority
- A chapter in the strategic plan focus on sustainability and promoting good paying renewable energy jobs in the county
- Connecting the county with more public transportation
- Increasing affordable housing and protections for low income communities
- Affordable transportation-traffic clusters don't make affordable housing affordable-put housing near our transportation nodes.
- We need a climate action plan
- Increase our public transportation to make our communities more walkable and bikeable
- Not all areas of the Rural Crescent are the same. Some areas are no longer beautiful and could be more useful to county in other ways that are not being considered
- We cannot afford all the things we want without increasing our tax base- we need data centers!
- There are a lot of resources out there that people just do not know about. These departments should do a better job of letting people know about them.

- Fortunately, the county has identified a Data Center Overlay Zone where electrical transmission capacity and local zoning define the places that are appropriate for data centers
- Data centers create opportunities for co-locations of business-so they create more jobs

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

- 55 and over communities add cars to the roads, but also add tax income for the schools
- With technical advances, I think renewable energy has been practical solutions. Arlington County Public Schools have implemented good examples.
- No asphalt plants. The community is too vulnerable.
- County strategic plan should prioritize consideration of a climate action plan, as done by neighboring counties with their strategic plans.
- Increase transparency with our Board through the transportation projects. These should not be on the consent agenda-we should have public hearing
- More true parks-places to place soccer, lacrosse, walk the dog, connect parks. Loudon has a \$100 million park plan on their bond referendum because they have the tax base to fund it.