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