Community Conversation Questions

1. What do you like most about living in Prince William County?
   - Abundance of national resources—green and open spaces. Pretty!
   - Old town Manassas/Occoquan – cultural offerings
   - Diversity of community (majority minority community)
   - Great place to raise a family
   - Reasonably affordable
   - Good schools—and education from elementary to higher education (up to PhD)
   - Trails
   - Wildlife preserve
   - County Staff!!! (*shout out to office of economic development)
   - Innovation center
   - Proximity to DC –museums, monuments
   - Rich history in the county

2. What do you like least about living in Prince William County?
   - COMMUTING! Transportation issues/difficult commute (several mentioned)
   - no sense of place...just Old Town Manassas/battlefield
   - Not wise growth—only houses and shopping centers
   - Limited adult recreation
   - Not dedicated bike paths/wide shoulders
   - Not welcoming to demographic change—bad tone being set
   - Lack of resource for mental health challenges/not enough services
   - Waiting lists for section 8 housing
   - Not a lot of thought into prototype building designs (ie opportunities to build vertical additions, esp school designs)

3. If you were in charge, what would you change about Prince William County?
   - Need to have happy people as well as happy cars—(make trails more connected)
   - Access to higher education with financial difficulties
   - Equity in terms of access to resources
   - Hospital beds for mental house
   - Intersection of 123 and Old Bridge Road
   - “laggard rather than a leader”—our neighboring counties beating us out on climate change and in smart growth
• Defund and demilitarized the police (reallocating resources to social services)
• For every dollar we pay, $.50 to county, $.50 to schools—schools are a black hole—duplication of functions between school and county—we should look for efficiencies
• Great majority of residents of county don’t understand the depth and scope of the need in the county—we need to educate the residents of the county of the need and provide more resources.
• Evaluate and present to the community a cost accounting of property taxes—what people actually pay and receive
• Partnership with Quantico to increase tax base—incents Quantico to move to PWC versus Stafford

4. What do you believe should be the top 3 priorities for the community over the next 4 - 5 years?
• Anticipating climate change/dealing with impacts—explicit component reducing emissions as well as adaptation to climate change (GREEN BUILDINGS & sustainable sites)
• Transportation transformation—integrate with land use planning (including pedestrian)
• Redesigning office space/residence space given COVID
• 35% goal for commercial tax/non-residential tax base
• Robust economy, school planning, improved transportation
• Education, mental health resources, defund/demilitarized police
• Job creation
• Proactive in smart growth
• Transit oriented development
  Strategic, smart growth -- economic development and slow growth except to accommodate the economic development, transportation and reduction in congestion, human services, education

5. What other comments or insights do you want to share that would be important to PWC’s strategic planning process?
• How do expand land for data center expansion? Should consider as it increases tax base
• Housing component is easy part of small area plans … but need jobs and services
  Pedestrian plans etc.
• Balance between residential and non-residential will be harder post-COVID
• Creating job opportunities and training in trade and other skill sets