

SPECIAL TOPIC WORKSHOP #2 CHAT AND POLL SUMMARY

ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION



The purpose of this workshop was to solicit input from the community on topics related to the comprehensive plan as it relates to Environment and Transportation. Below is a summary of the chat conversations and poll responses received during this meeting, held on Wednesday, February 24th, 2021 at 9:00am.




Chat Conversation Transcript:

1. 9:09 AM Jay Falstad here...And I'm here on behalf of Queen Anne's Conservation Association and myself as a citizen.
2. 9:11 AM Scott MacGlashan, I'm here but can not see survey questions. Church Hill area entire life.
3. 9:12 AM Gigi Windley here-Kent Narrows Foundation
4. 9:13 AM Annie Richards here, on behalf of ShoreRivers
5. 9:13 AM Frank DiGialleonard representing Corsica River Conservancy
6. 9:14 AM Bente Cooney, Founder of Plastic Free QAC
7. 9:14 AM Katherine Schinasi, Corsica River Conservancy
8. 9:14 AM Sara Shelley on behalf of Plastic Free QAC
9. 9:14 AM Elle Bassett- Miles-Wye Riverkeeper with ShoreRivers
10. 9:16 AM Bob Zillig - member of the county's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)
11. 9:19 AM good to see climate change explicitly acknowledged and incorporated into the plan
12. 9:20 AM You need to take this thinking up a level or two. Protect public health. Increase and sustain natural infrastructure, e.g. woods, etc
13. 9:26 AM Here is the link to upcoming Special Topic workshops. <https://www.qacplan2021.com/get-involved>
14. 9:26 AM Strongly agree with [Verbal Commenter].
15. 9:27 AM Queen Anne's County is unique because of its waterways- they are a huge asset to the community and way of life in the county. But the county needs more public access to these waterways and needs to prioritize water quality. better planning in the county will result in improved water quality. - as [Verbal Commenters] have said
16. 9:27 AM Protection needs include the ability to communicate to the traveling public the best ways they can help us to protect our environment.
17. 9:28 AM being a leader in preserving not only ag lands but open space, for natural resource protection, conservation practices and parks. However, we must keep up with the changes in climate/coastal resiliency efforts and not rest on what we have already done, but continue being a leader in resource protection.
18. 9:31 AM spot on [Verbal Commenter]!!
19. 9:32 AM The State did a study on sea level rise associated with the SKI project, showing that a not-insignificant portion of existing homes and newly developed lots would likely be under water between 2030-2040. This Comp plan covers to 2030 so has responsibility to that issue. The study was largely ignored previously, and the SKI project allows removal of a high % of forest in South Kent Island, not including the trees

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- already being removed from newly developed lots. Developers in the business park have plowed down trees to expand their buildings along the State park there, and KHOV has too. How will this plan protect Stevensville/Chester?
20. 9:32 AM From having participated in several of these workshops, it is clear that we love our beautiful county and are proud to share it with visitors. One thing is very clear is that we must reduce our littering on the roads and our waterways. We need to reduce our single-use plastics that causes so much litter.
21. 9:33 AM The part of the conformity that [Verbal Commenter] is talking about is found in Chapter 18:1-138.1. All development shall conform to the Comprehensive Plan....
22. 9:34 AM Yes, in a county where water is everywhere, improving the quality of the water is crucial and should not only remain in the plan but also be tied to municipal and local decisions on growth and development.
23. 9:35 AM greatest assets are river systems, marshes, buffers; greatest protection need is water quality, buffers and litter management on roadway, especially RT 50 which finds it's way into our drainage ditches, marshes and rivers.
24. 9:37 AM totally agree with [Verbal Commenter] last comment
25. 9:37 AM Agree with [Verbal Commenter].
26. 9:38 AM open space, clean and navigable waterways and healthy shorelines are all tourist assets
27. 9:39 AM Agree with [Verbal Commenter] also. Very important.
28. 9:39 AM touristic assets
29. 9:39 AM if you want to see the litter issue, just ride along the new Cross Island Connector boardwalk trail and look at the litter blown into the marsh from RT50
30. 9:40 AM i know it says in the intro sentence, but i would really like to see more specific restoration goals, not just conservation and preservation
31. 9:40 AM Resiliency needs to be included in this vision
32. 9:40 AM yes [Commenter 31]!!! we love a resilient county
33. 9:40 AM [Commenter 29] is absolutely correct. Walked that section of the trail last week and the volume of trash entering into the waterway especially was impossible to ignore. There needs to be a strong section in the updated plan to address this problem.
34. 9:41 AM This is a great feel-good vision, but there are no teeth to it. How specifically are we going to achieve this?
35. 9:42 AM Constant litter on the way out of Kentmorr and turning up Route 8 from people coming out of the commercial properties.
36. 9:42 AM A strong vision. Implementation plans need to include measures to make sure it is implemented.
37. 9:42 AM This is a great vision...but since 2010, greater emphasis needs to be placed on climate change.
38. 9:43 AM ...and this includes greater discussion on forest preservation.
39. 9:43 AM A strong vision statement. Implementation plans need to include measures to make sure it is implemented.

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40. 9:44 AM We need to refine the recycling practices. They vary from hauler to hauler and to County practices. We need to standardize the refuse rules and educate our population about recycling effectively.
 41. 9:45 AM Howard County has a great county recycling + education program that we could definitely learn from
 42. 9:45 AM Recognize that parts of the county are now categorized as extensions on metropolitan areas. Different tactics, funding sources are needed to to manage and protect these areas.
 43. 9:45 AM yes [Commenter 40]!!!
 44. 9:46 AM should our vision include something more on providing access for the public to our environmental resources, like trails and educational environmental stewardship
 45. 9:48 AM [Verbal Commenter] makes some great points - collaboration with and the creation of private-public partnerships across multiple municipalities and environmental organizations can alleviate funding stressors.
 46. 9:48 AM entertain newer techniques/be progressive/show leadership for best management practices to improve water quality and protect natural resources. Antiquated state/local regulations don't easily make doing so possible it takes local support/advocacy to the State agencies to bring about the ability to do so. . .
 47. 9:49 AM Robust Environmental Stewardship programs for both residents and visitors are important.
 48. 9:52 AM Absolutely [Verbal Commenter]. This is not just an environmental issue, but an economic and public safety concern
 49. 9:52 AM [Verbal Commenter] makes a great point. Costs avoided, i.e. by not allowing uncontrolled growth in critical areas, needs to be factored into decisions before they are made
 50. 9:53 AM I would like to comment, but have no raise hand button
 51. 9:53 AM again - totally agree with [Verbal Commenter]
 52. 9:53 AM [Verbal Commenter], see my comment above
 53. 9:54 AM agree with [Verbal Commenter] and [Commenter 46]
 54. 9:54 AM thank you!
 55. 9:54 AM Excellent point [Verbal Commenter]
 56. 9:54 AM excellent point and recommendation [Verbal Commenter]
 57. 9:55 AM Thank you [Commenter 46] and [Verbal Commenter] agree while the current vision has impressive elements it needs to be updated to include effects of climate change and clear means of planning and regulation.
 58. 9:55 AM As stated previously, The State produced a study on sea level rise – which was ignored by the County. Climate Change impacts are already evident here, yet exceptions are constantly made in planning approvals.
 59. 9:55 AM [Verbal Commenter] point about resources that will be available–natural resources are the basic infrastructure and will be allocated somewhere–the County (with surrounding and non-profit partners) should think about what needs to be done to make it a model of sustainable growth.

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60. 9:56 AM As several have pointed out, the vision and the growth decisions should be tied to the science on impacts to water quality including up-to-date BMPs, impervious surfaces, and water testing among others.
61. 9:56 AM The revised Plan should reference studies like the one on sea level rise so as to not be lost or ignored.
62. 9:58 AM Can we add a link to the Sea Level rise to the comp plan site?
63. 9:58 AM Yes, what [Verbal Commenter] says!
64. 9:58 AM Also in favor of developing robust environmental stewardship and education opportunities that encourage more individual responsibility from our residents and business owners.
65. 9:58 AM good point [Commenter 64], perhaps greater environmental stewardship education would help
66. 9:59 AM Here is the plan that has been referenced above.
67. 9:59 AM <https://www.qac.org/DocumentCenter/View/5456/QAC-Sea-Level-Rise-and-Coastal-Vulnerability-Assessment-and-Implementati?bidId=>
68. 9:59 AM <https://www.qacplan2021.com/resources> - scroll to the bottom of the page for the Community Survey conducted
69. 10:00 AM Many of these comments transcend a "special topic"
70. 10:00 AM how many people took these surveys?
71. 10:01 AM ~225 people, according to the doc
72. 10:02 AM Many of the comments during this discussion illustrate that natural resources/environment transcend a "special topic"
73. 10:03 AM Agree with [Verbal Commenter]!
74. 10:04 AM Goal should be to raise access to our natural resources (trails, walking paths, etc..) and then leverage these to promote environmental stewardship. Teach folks as they enjoy our environment.
75. 10:05 AM We need stronger regs on light and noise pollution.
76. 10:06 AM goal would be to require resilient development that is sited and designed based on current and project data including precipitation data and projected sea level rise (as opposed to extremely data it currently is based off of)
77. 10:07 AM extremely dated data*
78. 10:07 AM The State required Land Preservation, Park and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) establishes goals/objectives for open space preservation, proximity to populations, and natural resource protection as well as park development and ag preservation.
79. 10:08 AM A goal should be to reduce single-use plastic--commissions can help in this area. Increase producer responsibility of recycling of things like mattresses, artificial turf and boat shrink wrap.
80. 10:08 AM Public access to waterways and open space is missing from this list
81. 10:08 AM i am starting to think that environment and transportation could have each had their own workshop lol
82. 10:08 AM agree that noise and light "spillover" should get more attention

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83. 10:09 AM [Commenter 80] is exactly right!!
84. 10:09 AM [Verbal Commenter], if you would like to know more about our MS4 program, that goes well beyond SKI, please contact our MS4 director Jasmine Wilding at DPW. 410-758-0925.
85. 10:09 AM QAC should actively support the Delmarva Oasis strategy that is being sponsored by ESLC
86. 10:10 AM 
87. 10:11 AM One primary goal should be to double down on farmland and forest preservation efforts.
88. 10:12 AM Involve more local organizations in climate change education and amplify best practices.
89. 10:12 AM [Commenter 84], what I said re ms 4 is a reaction to what we heard Jasmine say at the Corsica Implementers meeting
90. 10:13 AM really encouraging and educating farmers and other landowners to be true stewards of their lands, and not stopping at just land preservation
91. 10:17 AM Those speaking about educating farmers should consider that it is not just family farms anymore but a higher level of Commercial farming entities.
92. 10:18 AM More attention needs to be paid to the County's Roads and specifically their roadside ditches and their direct effect on water pollution. CBF has made specific recommendations in this regard.
93. 10:19 AM assets include navigable waterways not just roadways
94. 10:20 AM our trails are major assets
95. 10:20 AM Very thoughtful views on multimode transportation resources.
96. 10:20 AM our towns are still not walkable right now, especially Stevensville and Chester ;))
97. 10:21 AM Our greatest need, based on the Gov. Hogans recent announcement, is to do all we can to opposed the third Bay Bridge coming through the present Rt50/301 corridor.
98. 10:21 AM FYI-Bay Crossing Study Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement has just been released. Comments due May 10.
99. 10:22 AM our needs include ability to better connect land-based, water based transportation services.
100. 10:22 AM agree with [Verbal Commenter] re 301 and protecting as a Scenic Byway
101. 10:23 AM bridges need better maintenance and management plans
102. 10:23 AM NO NEW BAY BRIDGE!
103. 10:25 AM OH also signs that say "share the lane" and bike sharrows are not a substitute for real bike infrastructure
104. 10:25 AM Very thoughtful, [Verbal Commenter]!
105. 10:25 AM There have been discussions about a ped bridge across rt 50 near Target, and even making the existing overpass a diverging-diamond interchange, which could include ped lanes on the existing footprint of the bridge. I agree this is important. Thanks [Verbal Commenter].

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106. 10:26 AM What [Verbal Commenter] says is so true. QAC development fails to accommodate pedestrian accessibility. Too great a dependence on use of the car/truck.
107. 10:26 AM Agree with [Verbal Commenter]
108. 10:27 AM QAC Commissioners have publicly supported the new Bay Bridge landing on KI, despite the longtime, unresolved transportation infrastructure issues. This Comp plan should put teeth into resolving these issues, and stop blaming the State.
109. 10:28 AM Agree with [Verbal Commenter]!
110. 10:28 AM Strongly agree with [Commenter 108].
111. 10:29 AM Focusing on infill..encouraged well designed pedestrian wayfinding coupled with attractive streetscape design will improve communities.
112. 10:30 AM complete streets!!!! pedestrian plazas!!!!
113. 10:30 AM honestly it contributes to an economic development issue that there's no foot traffic
114. 10:31 AM 1079 new houses at Four Seasons, all within the critical area...if you think there are traffic challenges now, you ain't seen nothing yet.
115. 10:31 AM #bringbackthechesapeakebayferry
116. 10:31 AM So true [Verbal Commenter]! Need more than acknowledgement though
117. 10:31 AM I've got a lot of thoughts on transportation
118. 10:32 AM Don't know what the comment "Focusing on infill" means.
119. 10:32 AM This vision statement is a large part of the problem—"maintain and enhance....roadways"
120. 10:32 AM thank you [Verbal Commenters] and everyone else.. this meeting has been very informative.
121. 10:32 AM exactly what i was going to say [Verbal Commenter]!!!
122. 10:32 AM bike/ped/transit should not be an afterthought
123. 10:33 AM Wonder if first sentence should be broader to say " a system of roadways and pedestrian access to"
124. 10:33 AM [Verbal Commenter] makes a very important point which needs much more attention and involvement by everyone. NOW!
125. 10:34 AM For all the money spent on a new bridge... why not simply replace one or both of the current flawed bridges with a single span, double decker bridge that has the future potential load capacity to handle other modes of transportations
126. 10:35 AM ohoho [Commenter 125] love the idea of a double decker!
127. 10:35 AM Great idea, [Commenter 125]
128. 10:36 AM Lauren, can you repeat your question again?
129. 10:36 AM Infill is not appropriate without appropriate transportation/traffic and environmental infrastructure – something which does not current exist.
130. 10:37 AM Whether new bridge or double decker the existing highway on east or west sides can't handle the additional load during peak travel season which has grown beyond summer.
131. 10:37 AM additional traffic load.

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132. 10:37 AM connect the bike trail to downtown Stevensville!!!!
 133. 10:38 AM I think we need a transportation subcommittee that brings all stakeholders together to help develop a meaningful transportation plan...we need some expert guidance on this important subject.
 134. 10:38 AM [Verbal Commenter], agree on county trail, perhaps from Centerville to Chestertown on existing scenic byway.
 135. 10:38 AM Plan to connect towns, schools, community amenities with ped/bike ways.
 136. 10:39 AM <https://www.qacplan2021.com/> - project website
 137. 10:39 AM Thank you for hosting this session Lauren!
 138. 10:40 AM If anyone thinks of further comments after this meeting you can provide comment here. <https://www.qacplan2021.com/contact-feedback>
 139. 10:41 AM thanks to you guys. look forward to continued dialog!
 140. 10:42 AM Thanks everyone! Looking forward to continuing this discussion.
 141. 10:42 AM Lauren, great moderating, great discussion!

Poll Results:

Thinking about environmental resources, what resources are most important for QAC to protect?:

- waterways (7)
- open space including forests (6)
- Farms (2)
- soils (3)
- forests (3)
- buffers (4)
- fisheries
- Watersheds (2)
- natural wetlands
- Water access
- hiking trails
- resiliency for marshes and flood control
- Bay area
- Wildlife (3)
- water quality (2)
- clean air (2)
- Water/Stormwater runoff/flooding
- Wetlands, ag lands, and established woodlands. Protection is just the first step, we must also be stewarding the land we are protecting to ensure species habitat growth, human health and ac

What should PlanQAC's most important priority be for North County?

- Encourage growth and housing availability
- Broadband
- Healthy lifestyle
- Supporting North County towns

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- Maintaining and improving quality of life
 - More small businesses/amenities while maintaining rural quality
 - Keeping to the Vision
 - To maintain open space and quality of life living standard
 - Infrastructure including fiber as well as strong community planning
 - Have a Masterplan strong enough to stand up to undesirable development pushed by powerful interest groups
 - High speed internet
 - More land preservation. What we have here in QAC is unique along the Whole Atlantic Coast, and the County's agricultural infrastructure can help support nearby major markets.
 - Providing services/housing/jobs

Thinking about transportation, other than the Bay Bridge and related traffic, what is QAC's biggest transportation issue?

- extreme lack of mobility without a car, and sometimes even with a car! no transit! no real walkways or bikeways!
- traffic and lack of public transport
- Congestion on local roads
- pedestrian connectivity, especially on Kent Island as it is bisected by RT50 with basically no way for pedestrians to cross from North to South
- walkways in Kent Narrows needed
- encourage/develop greener methods of transportation
- More trucks coming from Delaware.
- traffic back ups in summer
- better walkways, bike paths and using trees and plants to better buffer roadways.
- Rt. 301 corridor should be designated as a county supported Agricultural Scenic Byway as a means of protecting that corridor from development and the ancillary mess it would create.
- WALKABLE communities and public transportation
- No way to go across KI South of Rt. 50; Increased on-island volume (aprtments, developments, SKI without corresponding infrastructure improvements for capacity.
- ability to add traffic control/ management systems to accommodated growth. And relationship to SHA