

## VISIONING WORKSHOP #2 CHAT AND POLL SUMMARY COUNTYWIDE & CHESTER/STEVENSVILLE



The purpose of this workshop was to solicit input from the community on topics related to the comprehensive plan as it relates to Chester/Stevensville residents, as well as any Countywide residents that wished to call in. Below is a summary of the chat conversations and poll responses received during this meeting, held on Thursday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:30pm.



### Chat Conversation Transcript:

1. 5:17 PM Welcome to tonight's workshop! We'll get started in just a few minutes.
2. 5:25 PM All participants are currently muted. We'll unmute the lines a little later in the workshop for discussions. In the meantime, use the chat box for any comments or questions!
3. 5:26 PM Can you discuss who Wallace Montgomery is? I don't remember you doing that last night or I missed it.
4. 5:27 PM We definitely will! Thanks so much for the reminder.
5. 6:03 PM Opportunities - close to western shore and eastern shore/beach
6. 6:03 PM Challenges - traffic
7. 6:03 PM challenge: encouraging small independent businesses that serve the needs of residents given the disjointed nature of its development
8. 6:04 PM proximity to metro areas ( jobs, airport, health care, cultural opps, etc.) Abundance of natural resources,
9. 6:05 PM challenges :transportation alternatives, public infrastructure
10. 6:05 PM [Verbal Commenter] could you mute yourself? i think there's an echo
11. 6:06 PM opportunities- revisioning a vibrant, walkable, and eclectic "downtown" Stevensville: challenges- connectivity of communities, increasing alternative transportation beyond cars.
12. 6:07 PM challenge: pedestrian and cyclist movement on Kent Island, especially across Rt 50 via overpasses
13. 6:08 PM Affordable housing for our kids
14. 6:09 PM Challenge: Overdevelopment
15. 6:09 PM Not sure if my comments were heard- I think our waterways are both an opportunity and a challenge- They make our community unique and desirable but challenges include public access to those waterways and water quality. I also second what Jean is saying about coastal flooding vulnerability- our community needs to become more resilient as we face rising sea levels, more frequent storm events, and nuisance flooding.
16. 6:09 PM Opportunity: Embrace connectivity of communities. Challenge: Inability to MOVE at all on the island during beach season.
17. 6:12 PM Challenge: how insure commercial development near residential areas is properly scaled and buffered.
18. 6:12 PM Click on smiley face to raise your hand
19. 6:12 PM my raise hand is in the smile face button, might let people know
20. 6:13 PM If you hover over the happy face, it provides a list that includes Raise Your Hand
21. 6:13 PM [Verbal Commenter] to use hand gesture recognition i believe you must have video on. . .

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22. 6:16 PM i think the bike trail is a major opportunity – it's great for recreation, but with a few changes (directional signs, more on and off points) it could be used for local transit
  23. 6:17 PM [Verbal Commenter] We use the KI Trail for local transit during beach season :)
  24. 6:18 PM OH also bike repair stations i know that's on a smaller level but something simple with a wrench and air pump would be amazing
  25. 6:19 PM Greatest challenge is traffic gridlock on Kent Island due to beach traffic
  26. 6:20 PM building on pedestrian and cyclist movements, need to build boardwalk along RT 50 to go over Cox Creek. This would be great for the extremely difficult east west movement of pedestrians and cyclists on the south side of Rt 50
  27. 6:20 PM Need better broadband choices
  28. 6:22 PM We need a bike trail on south side of 50 in Chester to go to Narrows
  29. 6:22 PM opportunity National Historic District !!
  30. 6:22 PM Affordable housing. Also access to services for those who are underserved.
  31. 6:25 PM The Commissioners have long testified, including at the State level when seeking approval for SKI that they do not plan to request an increase in sewer capacity.
  32. 6:26 PM Chester/Stevensville Vision looks good
  33. 6:27 PM in addition to housing i think improving the variety of employment opportunities is important - i think there's a bit of brain drain effect
  34. 6:27 PM Need to consider the environment, climate change, and be more sustainable.
  35. 6:28 PM [Verbal Commenter] is there somewhere we can read about that resolution?
  36. 6:28 PM need to address coastal adaptation/hazard mitigation as part of environmental health of neighborhoods
  37. 6:29 PM Yes. We can provide that resolution to you.
  38. 6:29 PM How much development is grandfathered in?
  39. 6:30 PM would love that thank you [Commenter 37]!
  40. 6:31 PM Housing does not have to be on KI. Opportunities in Grasonville, Queenstown, Centreville, Sudlersville.....
  41. 6:31 PM If affordable housing is addressed in the plan, it should be better defined, in the context of the whole county and in the context of other infrastructure.
  42. 6:36 PM Employment and business growth. Lots of vacant commercial properties.
  43. 6:36 PM better planning for future development- avoiding sprawl or overdevelopment
  44. 6:37 PM Opportunity: Capitalize on the fact that the county is a thoroughfare for the beach. How do we get all of those folks to spend in our county coming and going?
  45. 6:37 PM Challenge: No hospital in the county.
  46. 6:38 PM yes [Commenter 44]!!!! they stop at the safeway, gas station, and chick fila but nowhere else
  47. 6:38 PM [Commenter 44]..good point, but also should encourage the new bridge NOT come across to Kent Island. Move it to Kent County or Southern Maryland.
  48. 6:38 PM Challenge: Lack of broadband services to support basic 21st Century needs.

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49. 6:39 PM challenge: concern on industrial commercial development near residential areas; opportunity - leverage and invest in parks
  50. 6:39 PM A big elephant in the room is the location of the new bay bridge
  51. 6:39 PM Is commercial development limited by the sewer plant capacity?
  52. 6:40 PM i had the same thought while reading [Verbal Commenter] !!!!!
  53. 6:41 PM agree, for the benefit of total Maryland the new bridge should be farther south to encourage economic development and not turn Kent Island into a freeway zone
  54. 6:41 PM <https://www.qacplan2021.com/resources> - link to previous plans on website
  55. 6:43 PM need to serve all demographics in the county – as a teenager growing up here it felt like i had to leave the county to do anything fun
  56. 6:44 PM i think the park overcrowding issue is a short term covid issue which will resolve itself.
  57. 6:46 PM I live in Chester. I'm not sure I would identify that as "rural."
  58. 6:47 PM An evaluation of all community services is a key component of this Plan Update. An assessment of water and sewer capacity is key. The resolution that Commissioner Moran referenced is Res. No. 04-68 (Sewer Policy Statement). A copy of that resolution can be obtained by contacting either the Planning and Zoning or the Water and Sewer Department. As it is a 2004 Resolution, it is no longer accessible on the County's Resolutions site.
  59. 6:47 PM I love the third bullet.
  60. 6:47 PM I also think that many of us are "commuters" who leave the County for employment.
  61. 6:47 PM big agree [Commenter 57] it's so hard to explain to people outside the county whether i live in a rural or suburban area
  62. 6:47 PM yes predominantly rural but must acknowledge that we have an urbanized area that should function with the best of both!
  63. 6:47 PM It all sounds good. Just need to do it in a sustainable way that preserves & improves our land and way of life.
  64. 6:48 PM I think this is a great vision statement but I don't think it adequately reflects all of Queen Anne's County currently. The most frequent words we have heard tonight is overdevelopment, traffic, and no affordable housing- the opposite of some of these points
  65. 6:49 PM should emphasize quality of life amidst continued growth
  66. 6:49 PM If you are up to date on the status of our controversial issues among the BOE you may disagree with the last bullet.
  67. 6:49 PM seconding [Commenter 63] comment!
  68. 6:51 PM seconding [Commenter 66] comment on BOE challenges
  69. 6:51 PM something that encourages healthy living
  70. 6:52 PM qac shouldn't just be up-to-date – it should set an example and be forward-looking
  71. 6:52 PM Big opportunity for the county: QAC being a model for other counties in regards to resiliency
  72. 6:53 PM another terrific comment from [Commenter 70] (i hope i'm not being weird just showing agreement)
  73. 6:53 PM Haha thanks [Commenter 72]!
  74. 6:54 PM I second [Commenter 70]

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75. 6:54 PM I agree with [Verbal Commenter]. I actually purchased my house knowing that it may be waterfront if less than 50 years. I'm not very close to the water at the moment :)
  76. 6:55 PM If they build a new bridge they should elevate the highway
  77. 6:57 PM my poll says NORTH COUNTY instead of CHESTER/STEVENSVILLE – assume it's a typo?
  78. 6:58 PM The biggest idea is related to process: Since the last Comp Plan, public hearings have been reduced to an agenda item at a Planning Commission or Commissioner meeting. Hold real hearings again at the high schools or other large public venues.
  79. 6:59 PM Understanding that Covid restrictions are a barrier, the plan should not be approved until such time that this can be done.

## Poll Results:

### In ONE word, describe what Queen Anne's County will be known for in the future:

- Traffic (2)
- community
- Destination
- overwhelmed
- paradise
- Apartments
- happiness
- congestion
- Prosperity
- Nature
- history
- welcoming
- quiet Beauty
- Experiences
- Growth
- tourism
- Waterways

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

- please for the love of god put in sidewalks
- Resiliency
- A solution to the lack of mobility during beach season.
- solve the traffic gridlock issue
- Resiliency- environmental site design to the maximum extent possible for any future development
- for Kent Island, traffic management and bike and pedestrian access around the island to shopping and recreation
- upgraded communication system
- Ability for residents to move about in the area
- Traffic issues in Chester/Stevensville
- Accommodate responsible growth and include affordable housing opportunities.

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## What should PlanQAC's most important priority be for Queen Anne's County as a whole?

- community connectivity in general!!!
  - Maintain rural character
  - A strategic plan to address sea level rise.
  - technological infrastructure for the 21st century
  - More complete public input in legitimate hearings at large public venues like the high schools. The plan should not be approved until this is done and responses are given.
  - Resiliency, smart growth that prioritizes current residents' quality of life
  - Traffic mitigation, bay bridge issues, broadband, transportation, workforce housing.
  - healthy living, newest bridge should be elsewhere
  - moving forward with smart growth, affordable housing with development that is sustainable
  - traffic control
  - sustainability and resilience
  - Transportation alternatives/solutions/Coastal Resiliency
  - Employment/Housing Opportunities
- Public access to services from underserved. Need to be sensitive to those communities which have invisible and ignored by many in communities