



PlanQAC's fourth Visioning Workshop was held virtually on Wednesday, February 4, 2021 at 5:30pm via WebEx and telephone call-in. Its purpose was to solicit community input on topics related to the Comprehensive Plan and its vision for Kent Narrows and Queen Anne's County as a whole. Kent Narrows residents and stakeholders, as well as those living/working in other parts or outside of the County, were welcomed to attend and participate. Below is a summary of the Workshop's discussions and participant questions.



## Discussion Topic: Kent Narrows Opportunities & Challenges

**Opportunities:** pleasant waterfront/walking/shopping/dining and boating; unique crossroads; maritime community; appropriate development in a thoughtful way for all to enjoy; consider ways to make the Narrows a year round area by event planning and increasing resident involvement; potential for a YMCA at the outlets

**Challenges:** making it attractive to residents as a place of community and not just a tourist attraction; traffic; coastal resiliency; balance of needs from environment to tourism to housing; maintaining natural heritage/habitat; it is currently a bit disjointed between Kent Narrows north and south side; make it more walkable/bikeable; SHA's attention to the area; roadway litter; difficulty removing buildings that are falling down

## Discussion Topic: QAC Opportunities & Challenges

**Opportunities:** create vibrant downtown; smart growth, reuse of failed business properties and protecting natural resources; compost facility; repurpose vacant lots; unique in that so much is surrounded by water; replace existing parking lots with green lots and permeable pavements

**Challenges:** improve infrastructure; eastern shore loses its unique character farmland, natural beauty and becomes just an extension of the western shore; COVID is going to damage our business community significantly; putting in more regulations is not going to help our county long term; we should be thoughtful of this for the next 10 years; businesses should not be saddled with the cost of off-site infrastructure; it has been ignored in the Narrows for a long time; bridge traffic will always be a challenge

## Discussion Topic: Vision for Kent Narrows

Public access to the water front expanded; increased trails and places to launch boats; protecting the environment; increased community involvement to encourage a more "year round" environment; more focus on history – incorporate more museums on QAC history

## Discussion Topic: Vision for QAC

Need for broadband improvement; look to be a leader for green development; equitable water access and resiliency in the face of climate change; improve walkability in the Narrows; increased housing for future generations; workforce housing and training; affordable housing with more walkability

## Discussion Topic: Big Ideas

- Placing more emphasis on the opportunities for connectivity offered through water based transportation
- Would love to see some protected bike lanes not just sharrows
- Realistic goals/recommendations that are achievable in planning horizon of 10/20 years

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- Kent Narrows generates a considerable amount of tax revenues for the County, but only a small fraction is reinvested in the area. The roads, sidewalk, etc. reflect that lack of investment which makes a difference
  - Expanding the properties around Chesapeake College into a medical education center
  - There are new opportunities to illuminate land marks and pedestrian ways with new forms of lighting
  - Developing and supporting an alternative to the new bay bridge
  - Expand and grow access to health care facilities and senior care facilities like those that are at the Nesbit road area in Grasonville
  - Tourism and economic development offer some type of bounce back coupon for something worthwhile to offer passers through to serve as an incentive for stopping the county
  - Limited rezoning of some rural areas for work force housing that our kids can afford
  - Ferries as an alternative to a third span across the bay
  - Build strong heritage tourism
  - Stormwater management systems improved drastically with health of the Chesapeake and its tributaries in mind
  - Attract some type of broadcast radio or tv station for QAC

**Participant Question:** What happens to Kent Narrows bridges and roadways if expanding the exiting route through QAC is considered?

*A detailed summary of the five PlanQAC Visioning Workshops will be available in advance of the March 2021 Planning Commission meeting. All comments and questions will be considered during the development of PlanQAC. Additional comments or questions can be submitted through the project website: <https://www.qacplan2021.com/>*