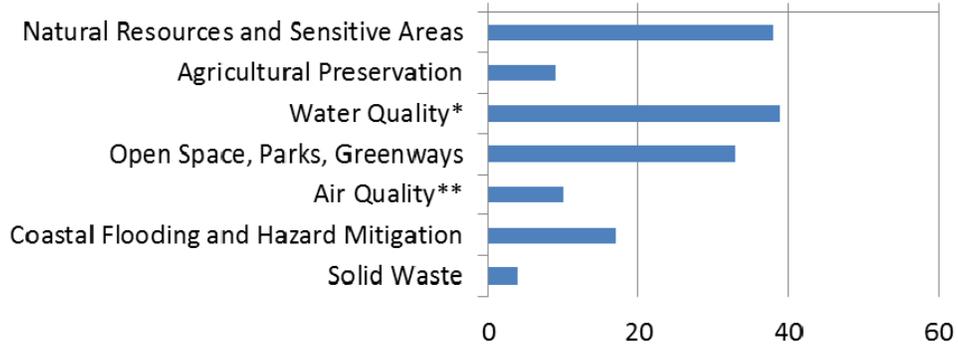


Listening Session 5
Values and Topics Survey Results and Open Comments
January 11, 2018 – Annapolis High School

Topics Survey Results

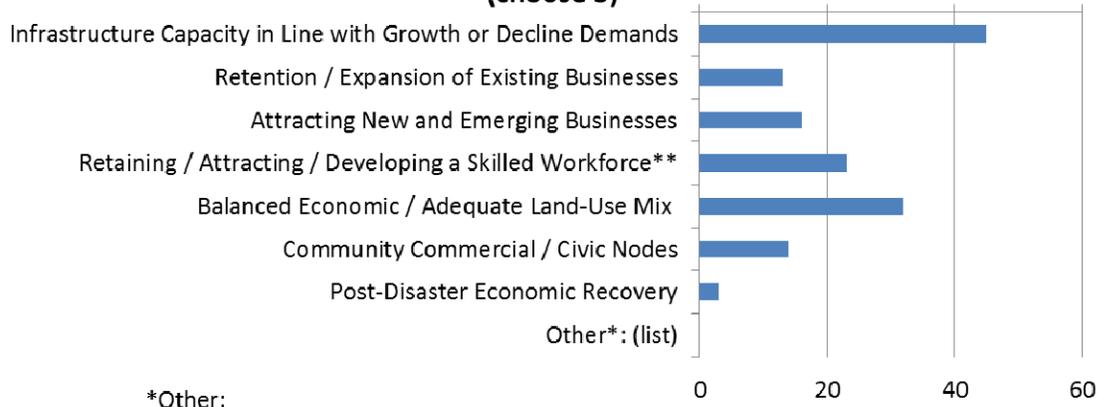
Planning for the Natural Environment
(choose 3)



* Note: one vote specified "protecting the Bay and impact of runoff"

** Note: one vote specified "impacted by traffic"

Planning for a Healthy Economy
(choose 3)



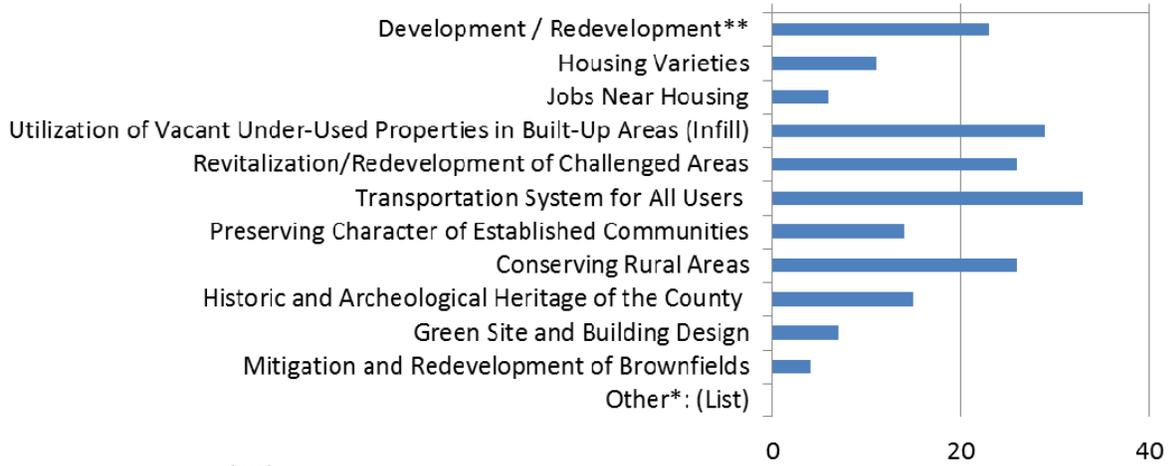
*Other:

- Housing affordability, esp. for public employees - teachers, police, etc.
- downzoning R5 to R4 to reduce residential density

** Note: one vote specified "and retraining of underskilled County citizens"

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Planning for the Built Environment
(choose 4)

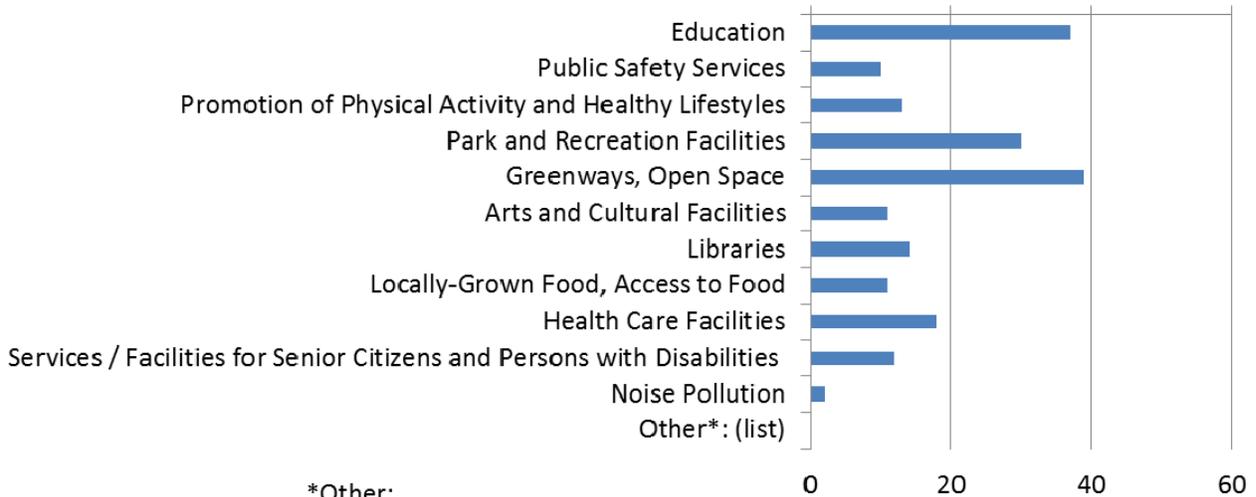


*Other:

- Infrastructure before development
- Sustainable Development
- transparency of development process
- ensuring we are researching and know benchmark communities that are doing it right

** Note: one vote specified "redevelopment"; one vote specified "concern with traffic impact from overdevelopment"; and six votes were for "against overdevelopment"

Planning for Healthy Communities
(choose 4)



*Other:

- Bike lanes and complete streets for active transportation (1 vote)
- Respect existing communities' visions and vernacular (1 vote)

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Values Survey Results

What do you like about Anne Arundel County (what are our strengths, opportunities, the things to preserve and enhance)?

- The beauty of the Bay and access to it
- Our trees and wooded areas
- Diversity of our communities and people
- Preservation of natural resources, farm land, historical sites while finding the balance to move the County forward
- Lifestyle is more laid back than living near DC – “Land of Pleasant living”
- Proximity to the water
- Good schools
- Lots of great neighborhoods
- Most areas are pretty safe
- Many cultural activities
- Plenty of stores and restaurants
- Love rural areas – please protect
- The schools
- Access to clean water
- Strong economy
- Highly educated workforce
- Highly rated school system
- Strong economy
- Excellent public services
- Diversity of opportunities and jobs
- Amazing natural resources / Bay living
- Quality of life
- Convenience to Baltimore / DC
- Strong economy
- Proximity to the Bay
- Nice neighborhoods
- Great programs for seniors
- Location to excellent medical facilities
- Great programs for youth
- I would preserve the water; we are getting away from that; they are building right up to the edge
- Strengths: beautiful area; great geographical location; increasing property values
- Senior centers
- Preservation of the County’s natural resources
- Convenient location
- Adequate recreational activities
- Adequate jobs

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Values and Topics Survey Results and Open Comments

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- Water community/attention to clean water/Chesapeake Bay health
- Preserve the Bay
- Preserve parks/recreation for all - nears water or not
- Opportunity to manage health of the Bay
- Good hospital/medical facilities in AA – and growing
- Preserve: natural resources – rivers/Bay; forests that preserve this water quality
- Enhance: STEM/CAT-N, CAT-S educational programs - they are awesome (Project lead the way)
- Strengths: respect for environment and history; school quality
- Opportunities: Plan use of open space; keep some open space natural.
- Preserve and improve water quality
- Green space/ground cover
- Open space
- Water Activities
- The water access
- The proximity to DC
- The balance of land uses
- Need rail!
- I love the natural beauty of Anne Arundel County with its abundant coast line and character; I also like that the diverse and population density is not as great as in the suburbs of DC and VA; I also love the nice cultural heritage and the many different kinds of activities going on here – government, recreation, cultural attractions, universities/colleges
- I like that Anne Arundel County is fairly diverse in terms of its built environment; as a transplant from the DC area, it's nice to have more rural areas in close proximity to more developed areas like Annapolis; I also like that the County provides a varied selection of work opportunities, ones proximity its proximity to DC and Baltimore makes it that much more attractive
- Location near Baltimore/Washington government and private jobs
- Quality of life
- Agriculture
- Strong sense of community (easily unified)
- Preserve our environment
- Proximity to waterways and other natural features
- Balance between urban, suburban, and rural areas
- Historical areas
- Jobs and commercial services
- Quality public schools
- Proximity to job centers – Baltimore/Washington
- Proximity to the Bay/ocean
- Strong employment centers
- Strong housing market values
- Good mix of housing opportunities

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- Well preserved historic districts
- Good schools overall
- Good proximity to transportation hubs – BWI, DCA, Amtrak
- Location
- Community College
- State capital
- Historic legacy – non removable resources
- Academy
- Strengths: History; natural beauty; Quiet waters/other parks; recreation areas; neighborhoods; exceptional and affordable education opportunities (i.e. AACC)
- Like access to water and safety of communities
- Opportunities: revitalize areas needing redevelopment
- Preserve critical areas and enhance access to Bay and rivers
- Forests and wetlands and open space (not open space with built-out recreational facilities)
- Access to the Bay (but need a healthy Bay)
- Its natural beauty with forest, farms, rivers, and the Bay
- Good mix of people
- Preserve our open space and farm heritage
- Great County, love it
- Schools need to improve
- Network of roads
- Network of walking/bicycle paths
- Goals to maintain forested area
- Enhance the “Welcome to Anne Arundel County” sign on 50
- Economic strength
- Employment opportunities
- Location /to water/roads
- Enhance park system
- Bacon Ridge natural area
- The rural south
- A vibrant downtown Annapolis
- The B & A bike trail
- The Bay environment
- Citizens who care about the environment, history
- The library system
- Town centers
- Strengths: history; historic resources; proximity to water/rivers; parks
- Opportunities: Be model in Maryland for good planning; protection of resources; need to limit growth and development to areas where there is existing infrastructure

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Values and Topics Survey Results and Open Comments

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- Beautiful place to live with the Chesapeake Bay, numerous rivers and diverse communities with various housing styles; many opportunities to enhance our infrastructure (roads, stormwater/stream restoration) however, new and redevelopment must be facilitated with more flexibility, low bureaucracy; people want to live here; we should set GDP goals to facilitate infrastructure improvement with reasonable infill and redevelopment
- I like how Anne Arundel County seems very connected to its residents; the County seems very serious about becoming the best place for its residents to live
- The schools here are great
- The County has a great opportunity to break from sprawl and lead the State in building more modern, people-centered communities
- Strengths: water; open space
- Opportunities: to make good on community vision
- Preserve: character of the neighborhoods; sensitive bio retention areas- RCAs
- Enhance: quality of life of existing residents; environmental stewardship of land
- The Chesapeake Bay and the City of Annapolis are our greatest environmental and cultural strengths; continued preservation of the Bay and its surroundings is paramount; regulations that target large-scale offenses are preferred over individual/minor households; continued cooperation between the City and the County are encouraged; promoting mixed use development in the Parole Growth Management Area is smart growth
- Property taxes are lower (incrementally) more so than several other counties in State
- Pollinators (re: Colony Bee Collapse) are well (statistically) because of dominant springtime tree blooming of tulip/Poplar canopies in South AA County and stable crop rotations (generally speaking)
- Oyster reefs (DNR, Smiths/Feds) are beginning to make a comeback in protected areas
- Crab populations along 500 mile estuary Chesapeake shoreline/Patuxent River shoreline are better than watermen expected
- Antique farmhouses (Lothian Vicinity) and plantation manors are being kept up and in some historic preservation instances, financially defrayed by credits from State and County
- The County offers a highly educated population which is interested in diverse and plentiful cultural opportunities, good public education systems, up-to-date public library systems, well recognized hospital and medical facilities and regional parks with public access to water
- We have rural lands where people grow food that we can purchase at farmers markets
- We have the State's capital, historic sites in Annapolis, Londontown and parts of North County
- We have start of bike paths that hopefully will connect someday
- Diversity of environments in close proximity to DC and Baltimore

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Values and Topics Survey Results and Open Comments

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- Strong employment and economic opportunities
- Waterfront, parks, recreation opportunities
- Annapolis, historic character and robust cultural opportunities
- Community College
- Proximity to BWI Airport
- Proximity to the Bay (Public Access needs improvement)
- Normally mild climate
- Proximity to Baltimore, DC & BWI
- Reach natural resources
- Diversity
- Cultural and historical heritage
- Healthy economies

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Values and Topics Survey Results and Open Comments

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What needs to be improved (what are our weaknesses to overcome, what are the negative trends?)

- Lack of transparency in the development process (seems like the developer has the inside track); traffic nightmares; the amount of traffic in the Annapolis Peninsula is killing the nature of the community; development “creep” (if you drive down Forest Drive Corridor you will see it); the way low income public housing seems to be just “dumped” in pockets (like we have in Eastport Forest Drive); Smart planning between the City and County
- Improvement of infrastructure and roadways for better commute times
- Too many cars-traffic jams and delays; need more public access to the water; better stormwater management –needs more funding; need more public transportation, especially rail lines to DC & Baltimore; need more open space and greenways for wildlife-too many trees bulldozed for development; stop city annexations-allows too much density of housing
- Parks and recreational facilities; public access to water; free public wifi; better roads and sidewalks
- Poor zoning code-specifically single family residential zoning is far too course R1, R2, R-5 - what about R-4 in areas contiguous to existing 1960-1970 neighborhoods of 0.25 acres
- Love mixed use development with commercial/residential together but there are only a few places that offer this
- Transportation infrastructure especially bicycle networks needs enhancement; education system-more support for teachers; better thought out infill and development aesthetics
- Connectivity between neighborhoods
- We need to invest more time on the drug problem. The drugs are out of control. I feel that might bring in more crime
- Weakness: Traffic, Rural Areas need more transportation and healthcare, 18-24 year olds have limited options
- Greater developmental planning especially how it relates to congestion (traffic, housing)
- Stop overdevelopment, roads are inadequate, schools are overcrowded, ignore citizen concerns, need more fire and police, well water quality, waterways quality
- Transportation within county and without, improve education at all levels; caution/attention to overdevelopment; improved public services for those in need
- Biking opportunities (safe biking paths); local foods/farmers markets; inconsistent school quality/overcrowding; roadways/traffic congestion
- Transportation-within Annapolis Neck additional bus options; roads are full-how to manage traffic; West Street over used-what to do about this
- APFOs need to be modified for peninsula protections; traffic impacts by over development; allow for supporting infrastructure to catch up with current population

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- Need rail!; air quality!; water quality!
- Our public transportation system in general and bike paths in particular need improvement; I am concerned that there is a negative trend towards population density with house farms popping up and ruining the character of the place
- I believe that the County could improve its public transit system. A city like Annapolis should have a more comprehensive transit system with some connection to the rest of the County
- Traffic is overwhelming
- Improve waterways; preserve land; develop existing vacant lots; fix transportation routes (214)
- Too much focus on new development with unclear benefits; lagging funding for schools and other essential services; haphazard development and inadequate focus on water quality impacts and opportunity to install green infrastructure; poor public transportation and no clear plan to address as part of new development much less existing urban/suburban areas
- High crime in concentrated urban cores; some school facilities in disrepair and/or underutilized; need to encourage redevelopment in urban centers with flexible zoning; too many failed strip malls with few zoning options to redevelop; high taxes discourage business development and retention
- Political emphasis impasse - local elected politicians think they are national representatives; limited public transit; geography limits transportation options to many peninsulas.
- Do not approve any more major developments on Annapolis Neck- 1. Traffic is already a problem, 2. Schools are at capacity, 3. Roads are insufficient; historic sites need more protection from adverse development; water level expected to rise significantly by 2040so need plans to address potential flood areas
- Improve process for future planning so it occurs more frequently and in line with community and economic trends
- Traffic congestion; school overcrowding; forest destruction and weak enforcement of Forest Conservation Act
- Traffic is getting heavier; water and air quality becoming worse; development of agricultural lands
- We are threatened by overdevelopment; developers have much too much influence in the County government; there is too much emphasis on economic growth - we are already one of the wealthiest areas in the U. S.
- South County not allowing development; schools need to be able to accept new development; permit process timing; community association law suits and appeals to development; trying to save every tree; path for walking and biking network with pocket parking lots
- North County crime; cumbersome permit review; schools construction lags behind; fix Route 50/Bay Bridge/Severn River Bridge

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- We need a countywide transportation system that provides fairly quick ways to get from homes and jobs around the County. I grew up in Dallas and I could get from my neighborhood to the closest shopping center, to a center with department stores and to downtown by bus. Here, it takes so long to get from my house in Annapolis to AACC and there's no way to get to Severna Park or Crofton. Also, in recent years Forest Drive in Annapolis was widened and sidewalks were installed in some spots, but no bike paths were added. Years ago, when Bestgate Road was widened, no bike paths were added. People bike on those roads and it is so unsafe. We need safe paths for bikes. Affordable housing is lacking. Teachers, police officers, public servants should be able to buy homes here, but the homes they can afford are not big enough for families. We used to have tennis courts at most schools but they haven't been maintained or have been torn down. We need more of these green spaces, parks and places people can play without belonging to country clubs.
- Transportation infrastructure; need for safe alternative transportation modes- pedestrian, bicycle, mass transit (I frequently bike and use the Annapolis Circulator); need to encourage mixed use development-housing in proximity to jobs, services, retail, etc.; make regulations realistic and effective so they actually impact the GDP and its goals, objectives, etc. (ex. make sure they encourage and facilitate development in targeted growth areas)
- Improve public water access; population growth is overwhelming infrastructure; need alternatives to auto transportation; make spring and fall longer
- Public transportation; complete streets with bike lanes; land use planning that protects farm and forest in an organized way to protect the land and wildlife; riparian zone protection; stormwater and run off pollution
- Need to improve efforts to stop run off from development into rivers; make developers pay/maintain effective stormwater management; enforce existing laws regarding discharge from boats in rivers
- Development review process needs to be improved to verify conformance with standards; design concerns should be left to landowners who is taking the risk; older development without proper infrastructure (stormwater) should be incentivized to do more than the minimum; schools need to be redistricted as needed based on demographic changes; mandatory review of capacity to require redistricting; all APF should have incentives
- The sprawl must end; let's build around people and for people...not cars.
- Infrastructure; roads, public water, schools, emergency response capability before additional development; revamp APFO-make development actually pay for the cost of population growth
- AACO is perceived by many businesses outside the County to be too expensive and over regulated; water and sewer connection charges were reduced however impact fees and other building fees continue to be too high and not competitive with other counties; job growth and job creation are critical to the long-term health of the county

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- NSA access at Fort Meade for (16,808) increased DISA personnel children - schools need improvement and access for maintenance and improvements are difficult for assessors and school (AACO) renovations; disposal of Crownsville asbestos-riddled sanatorium facilities - too expensive to renovate, no prognosis for abatement; prospects for Tipton Airport private sale? Does the airport give county tax shelter now?

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What is **MOST** important to you as you look to the future of Anne Arundel?

- Sensible development and redevelopment
- Adequate funding of schools
- Being able to enjoy the outdoors and nature; feeling safe
- Being able to reach places without getting stuck in traffic
- Less traffic
- More affordable housing
- Stormwater captured onsite so less pollution of waterways
- Keep the area safe
- Keep this area as a great place to live
- Need sustainable development
- Jobs
- Schools
- Public services
- That we continue to improve our quality of life through smart growth and investment in infrastructure
- Preserve quality of life
- Not let traffic congestion get worse
- Maintain public services: Library, Senior Centers, Parks and recreation
- Clean up the water and the crime
- To see the development to slow down
- Also to see a Fire Department down in Mayo
- Most important: the children, public safety, health care options
- Maintaining a balance between development and the maintenance of open space (parks, recreational facilities, farms)
- I want my children to be safe, have a good education and the quality of life I had growing up in Anne Arundel County; we need to slow down development and fix our roads; we need to put citizen concerns and input first
- Guard against over population
- Improve education
- Chesapeake Bay health – ditto our rivers and creeks
- Always improving health care for aging population
- Public services to those in need – regardless of race, gender, nationality
- Preserving Natural Resources (eco system services) that will best protect our waters and quality of life
- We need to ensure Smart Growth not thoughtless sprawl
- Chesapeake Bay water quality
- Schools – great now, let's keep them great
- Public transportation options – improvement can only help reduce traffic congestion
- Quality of life
- Balance between development and green space

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- Traffic
- Air quality; water quality
- Progressive land use policy
- Rail Transportation
- Health of our environment – the Bay and its watershed
- I hope that the County preserves the abundant natural resources that it currently maintains. I would also like to see the County continue to diversify its job base and work on including all populations in planning efforts.
- Land / natural resource preservation
- Preserve the natural habitats
- Improve our rivers and various other waterways
- Educate community on sustainability
- Maintaining balance between urban and rural areas
- Limiting future development to existing areas - infill of redevelopment of blighted areas where roads and other infrastructure (water and sewer) are already in place
- Stricter controls on development of undisturbed property
- Maintain low density zones such as south of Rte. 214
- Development and redeveloped focused and encouraged in urban centers
- Encourage redevelopment of brownfield sites
- Encourage infill development through flexible zoning that allows density to remain in urban centers
- Environmental protection
- What are the local solutions to global warming?
- Public education – tax dollars should go to “public” schools!!
- Curb development on Annapolis Neck
- Plan for forecasted higher water levels to address flooding of land along Anne Arundel’s waterways (commercial and residential developments roads, utilities, etc.)
- Address preservation and / or research of historic and archeological resources in flood areas
- Most important to balance growth in growth and target areas with preservation in sensitive (environmentally) areas
- Traffic
- Limiting and controlling residential/commercial property development
- Higher standards of education, in elementary and upper schools
- Preserving its nature
- Keeping it more rural
- Planning for quality of life rather than growth of population
- Some public transportation for long distance commuting (for example – Annapolis – Baltimore train)
- Plan for the people who are here now
- Don’t let residential growth destroy our quality of life
- Protect open space and critical areas

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- Preserve forests
- Bring more development to Southern County
- Improve schools
- Public schools (additional)
- Smart and sustainable growth
- Fair review process of new and redeveloped properties
- Infrastructure improvements
- Continued improvement of Chesapeake Bay for recreational and fisheries (DNR/Fed) use
- Providing high quality technologically advanced infrastructure (transportation, health care, education and facilities, water, river, storm drainage, parks, recreation facilities, etc.) to facilitate a strong quality of life and economic /housing opportunities for residents
- Achieve a sustainable balance – school, population, and infrastructure
- More/better parks
- Improving transportation
- Attracting the next generation of the workforce
- Affordable housing for all income levels
- Land use laws that protect the environment
- Public transportation
- Smart, slow growth within urban growth boundaries
- Stormwater and waste water management
- Growth Control
- Manage growth and reduce growth density south of BWI – and encourage high-rise development north of BWI
- Protect Water resources for future generations
- Ensure historic areas are protected with local/Federal designation
- Address traffic
- Protect important natural lands with permanent easements
- Fund education
- Providing flexibility for mixed-use, infill development to occur; mixed-use should be encouraged; APF should provide more opportunity from mitigation and fund growth
- Preserve our waterways
- Enhance our schools
- Intelligent human-centered design
- The fact that I need to drive to anything at all is extremely limiting
- Preservation of buffer management areas
- Real support for zero water runoff – new and existing structures
- A planned system for road maintenance and expansion
- Fire and police adequately sized to support communities

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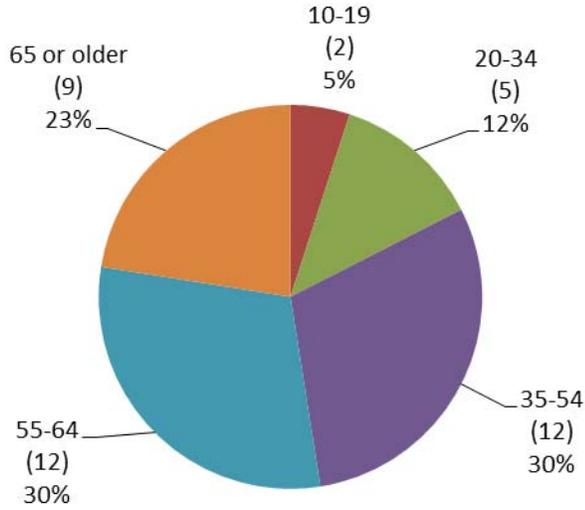
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- Striking a balance between environmental preservation, regulatory over-reach, and job creation; neither holds a superior position over the other; all can be successfully done when approached with an open mind
- My 35 year old son works in Annapolis but most of his friends commute to Baltimore or Washington where they can afford to buy houses – even though they can work in Annapolis. That shouldn't happen. These are highly educated professionals with good jobs so they should be able to afford to live nearby but they can't. My vision is for the County to be a safe place with clean air and water, an above average public education system, world-recognized health systems, and access to good jobs, nice housing and diverse cultural and recreational activities. Some parts are in place, but we need to provide options not only for professionals like my son, but also for those in lower-wage jobs such as those in the service or retail sectors. We need ways for everyone to get around – bikes cyclists, pedestrians, bus rides and those in cars. We need more green spaces in communities so people can touch nature every day – it restores the soul and destresses the mind.

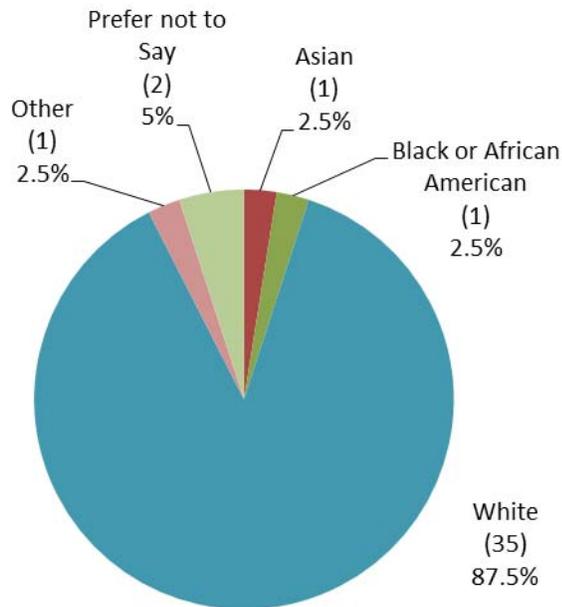
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Demographics of Respondents

Age:

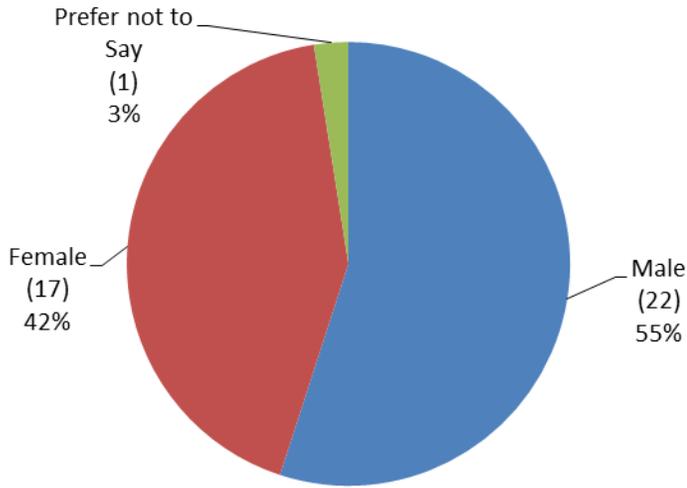


Race:

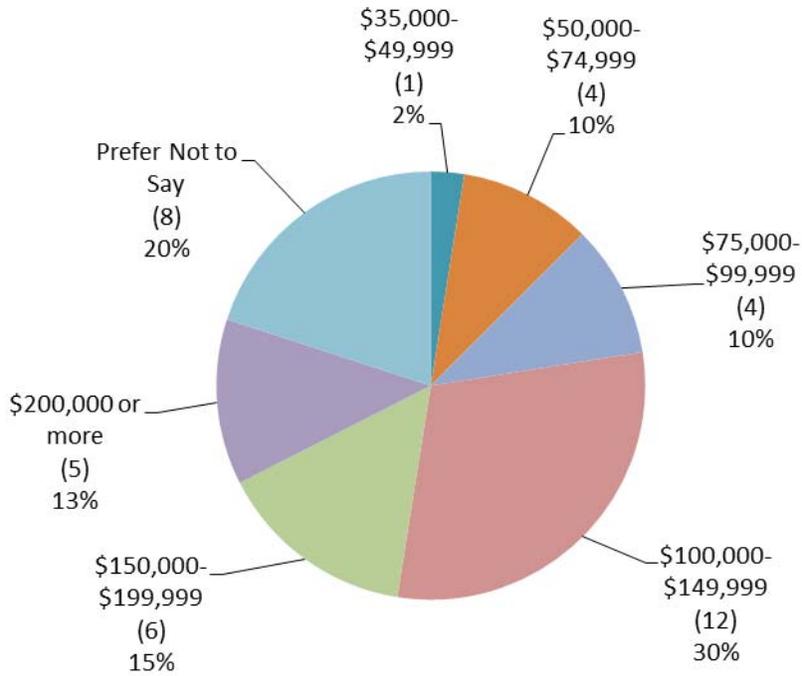


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Gender:

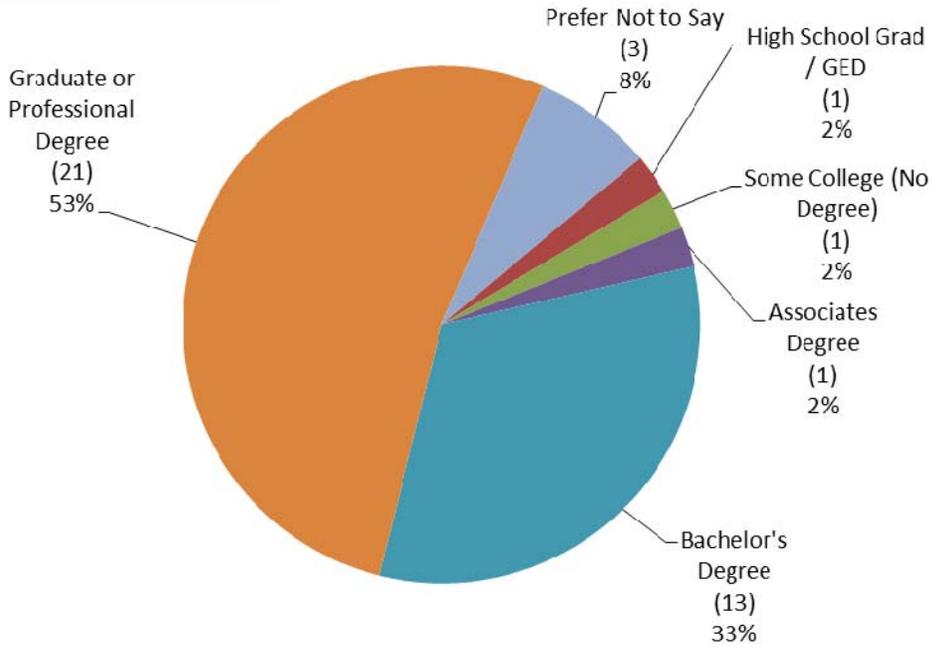


Household Income:

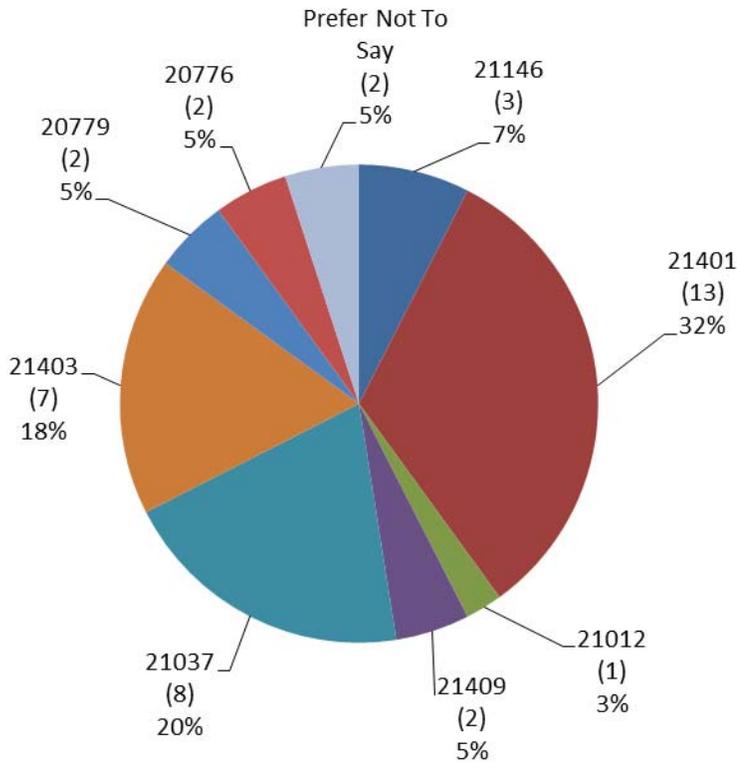


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Educational Attainment:



Zip Code:



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Open Comments

- The planning process appears thoughtful, but there's disappointment that more people haven't come out to participate. Consider how to make the outreach even more local and locally-designed.
- In Annapolis Neck, it's all about traffic. We also love diversity, natural beauty, and protecting the Bay. Education is a high priority to develop a trained workforce. Consider more practical benchmarks and what other good communities are doing across the nation.
- Observe how people react to communities that are built around people, not vehicles. People have a positive reaction to communities built around them. Businesses want to bring people together. Change the paradigm of our development from being designed around cars to communities designed around people, with mixed use, etc. Communities designed around people versus cars look completely different.
- A quick poll of people who came to tonight's meeting: who *wants* increased population growth in their local community? (3-4 hands go up; one comments that it depends on the kind of development). Who would *not* want more population growth in their local community? (majority of hands go up).
Often average residents do not want additional residential development or population growth in our local neighborhoods. We should slow down overall growth of the County. Think on a broad scale about what kind of growth we want and don't confuse more growth with quality growth. We have a beautiful place to live. Consider how more growth will impact this.
- Mixed-use development and smart growth make good sense because it's about putting development where infrastructure is already located or can be expanded. The current code needs to be updated to better achieve this, with development such as employment areas, supported by infrastructure. We need an expansion of public-private partnerships to overcome shortcomings in infrastructure provision, such as in stormwater management, schools, etc.
- Take a look at the former Small Area Plans which still have a number of applicable recommendations. There are still issues with traffic, density, open space, wildlife corridors, potential rail connections, sustainable development (using existing infrastructure) and making sure we can support the density we're proposing.
- In implementing the vision, our tools must match the vision. Our goals for multi-modal transportation, mixed use, etc, often rely on implementing mechanisms that don't always advance the vision. For example: for a vision channeling development to targeted areas, the policies may not support that goal when 75% of the PFA is shut down for additional development due to closed schools; growth ends up going elsewhere. We benefit today from previous development and infrastructure. Consider the proper implementation tools to advance and not hinder the goals and objectives of the plan.
- Traffic as a primary concern on Annapolis Neck; there is more congested flow than previously. There are concerns with school overcapacity and the preservation of forest and wetlands.
- Consider how the SAPs will be used going forward so that the goals of those plans are incorporated. We need an assessment of what's been achieved.

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- There should be more County and City collaboration. There has been a failure of coordination and cooperation between the two jurisdictions in the past in the development process, and the citizens should be informed what that process is.
- We need housing, but not sprawl development. It's easy for people who already own a house to suggest building no more housing, but this is a barrier for first time buyers.
- The current zoning code eats away at green space and farmland and creates traffic issues. There are higher rates of pollution and dampened rates of economic growth from this. We should pursue high-density transit oriented development, with convenient modes of transportation to dissuade car use. Consider a zoning process more akin to what is practiced in Japan.
- There are concerns with the Crownsville Hospital site, and whether asbestos contamination has kept it off the market. Consider whether this can be reasonably cleaned up, or potentially whether structures need to be removed.
- There are concerns regarding the opioid epidemic, methadone clinics, and the health system response.