

## **Visioning Anne Arundel: CAC Kick-Off and Public Education Workshop Summary of Small Group Assignment and Discussion**

The afternoon session of the April 13<sup>th</sup> Visioning Anne Arundel: Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Kick-Off and Public Education Workshop featured a small group assignment and discussion amongst participants. Participants were randomly assigned to three different groups to discuss opportunities and challenges for three topic areas - Development, Environment, and Transportation. These topics were chosen by County staff based on previous citizen input on priorities for the General Development Plan. Each small group was given 30 minutes to self-facilitate and then present their comments to the entire group of participants.

The opportunities and challenges were recorded on large tablet pads and then hung up on display. Each participant was given a total of 6 dot stickers to place next to the comments they felt were most relevant. Each dot sticker by a comment represented a vote for that comment. The opportunities and challenges are summarized below by topic group; see Appendix A for the recorded group responses and number of votes received.

### **Opportunities**

#### **Development:**

- Incentivize Revitalization and Preservation before building green spaces; preserve quality of life in historic and developed areas; preservation of farms that are less than 50 acres, allowing them to group together
- Revise Zoning laws to reflect plans, policies and practices – allow fewer zoning exceptions, extend and clarify storm water warranty, increase community facilitation through community ownership of plans and decisions
- Overhaul land use system – consider new approaches, grandfather rights, permit caps
- Have infrastructure in place prior to development
- Promote redevelopment of underutilized property – explore public/private partnership, multi-use development, offer county as a test area for new technologies; be the lead on redevelopment
- Connect communities – build within existing infrastructure and walkable; local jobs accessible by walking; holistic development

#### **Environmental:**

- Incentives to move away from Fossil Fuels – incentivize building solar panels
- Update natural resource maps for the County; provide information on access to water
- Have stricter rules and convey benefits of retaining / constraining forestation

#### **Transportation:**

- Increase viability of public transit – have options to move in and out of the peninsulas, create a sense of place around transit stations, local multimodal solutions
- Create safe biking and walking trails

- Restore and retrofit historic highways – allow installation of bike paths on historic highways; consider traffic circles at congested intersections

**Other and Non-GDP Opportunities:**

- Explore raising income taxes to fund these ideas
- Bring agencies together – lack of coordination on development, forest, and stormwater enforcement
- Eliminate plastic bags
- Educate the public on the importance of Environmental quality – conservation of forested areas, quality of drinking water, promote recycling, and ridesharing, green businesses
- Share county data (GIS)
- Do all Small Area Plans together
- Increase community ownership of plans, decisions, facilitation
- Work through State to provide more incentives for solar panels
- Increase recycling universally in County buildings
- Measure the quality of drinking water

**Challenges**

**Development:**

- Vacant and abandoned parcels – unused Federal land, encouragement of private sector to redevelop unused/underutilized spaces, especially retail
- Placement and type of development in sensitive areas
- Too many density variances and modifications allowed

**Environmental:**

- Deforestation – enforcement of critical areas, not allowing 68% removal of trees
- Stormwater quality, runoff, burden, 2-year bond; incentives to do better; drainage and outdated storm drainage
- Water quality management , maintaining affordability and quality; Water access

**Transportation:**

- Inadequate public transportation – outdated, diverse needs, affordability and accessibility, issues with frequency, consistency, ride lengths, and connection points to resources, highway crossings
- Congestion and Traffic – ability to live without a car, State roads, retrofit highways, bay bridge; clean air – decrease emissions, more renewable energy
- Accountability to plans on transportation; app to keep info on plans, ensure communication on 16 areas
- Diverse needs, diversity of stakeholders – rural needs, urban needs, employment patterns, different expectations
- Expansion of BWI considered in plan

### Other and Non-GDP Opportunities:

- County resources for implementation, enforcement, monitoring, planning and zoning
- Litter and Beautification education
- Fertilizers and Pesticides
- Engagement for transparency
- Codification of SAPs; review of SAP boundaries; organize plans in the same way
- 6-year cycle
- Protection in County Code for HOAs on development issues
- Businesses and communities coordinating for success
- Pockets of poverty across the County – bringing opportunity, preventing barriers and displacement; providing rent stabilization



*County Executive Pittman Kicks-Off Visioning Anne Arundel*



*Workshop participants listen to a presentation on Smart Growth by Governor Parris Glendening*



*Example of Small Group Discussion report out and prioritization of ideas*

## Comments from Blue Cards and Feedback Document:

### Economic & Quality of Life Improvement

The CFAAC released the “2018 Poverty Amidst Plenty, IV” report in March 2019. It identified, once again what have become endemic pockets of persistent poverty in specific areas of the county. As the GDP is becoming characterized, what is being included to provide economic development (housing, transportation, education, health services, etc.) to mitigate the systemic actions and lack of infrastructure availability that is needed to resolve these quality of life failures?

### “Standing” Status for Home Owner Associations

Legal protection within county code is needed for home owner associations when issues of land use are present when variances to existing county code are requested that negatively impact entire communities, not just individual property owners.

Currently, HOAs cannot afford to take positions in opposition to such variance requests due to the threat of lawsuits from associated lawyers and variance requestors. HOAs have a voice in these matters but cannot assist directly affected property owners by current variance adjacent property standing definition. Please include HOAs within your definition of “communities”.

#### 1. What topic was most interesting to you?

All- Need to add Gambrills, Millersville & Patuxent to Odenton SAP. Also add Davidsonville to South County Plan

ALL Roads accommodating pedestrian, bikes, etc. + cars –

ALL TREE inclusion be NON GMO that won't Hurt + Kill Ecology – BEES etc. !!

#### 2. What is the biggest challenge in Anne Arundel County?

All plans need to be organized the same in annex/Appendix - A – Background, B – Vision, C – Current situation, T – Transportation, W – Water – H<sub>2</sub>O – availability

Parking Regulation + Encouragement Motivation + use parking lots – (incentive) (shop owners offer discount or small token or from City)

Redevelopment – transportation – Ecology incorporated w/ developers

#### 3. What is the biggest opportunity in the County?

S – sewage – Existing/Planned

Z – Final – Execution

Green business – teaching Residents to rethink water runoff prevention options for Home – (Driveways – decks – patios – roof -) all construction

Communities + business Actually coordinating for success

## Appendix A: Recorded Group Responses

April 13, 2019

Opportunities	
Votes	Recommendation
4	Solar Panels - work through State to provide more incentives
0	Recycling more universally in County Buildings
9	Community Ownership of Plans & Decisions / More Facilitation
3	Quality of Life in Historic and Currently Developed Areas
9	Create a sense of Place around Transit Stations
7	Holistic Development– safe biking & walking
12	Redevelopment of Underutilized Property– solar, senior, activity centers
13	Public Transport in and out of Peninsulas
3	Multi-use Development – public/private partnership; 648/3 – under-utilized buildings
2	County should lead on Redevelopment
21	Infrastructure in place <i>before</i> development
68	Incentivize Revitalization & Preservation before building Green spaces
47	Incentives to move away from fossil fuels – Tax credits for solar panels, elimination of plastic bags, energy efficiency
1	Measuring Quality of Drinking Water – and report, incentive to do better
6	Extend time of Warranty for Storm Water & Clarify what's included in Warranty
1	Bigger role for Public on the “Why” of environmental quality
4	Convey benefits of retaining/conserving forestation – Stricter rules
7	Preservation of farms <50 Acres – allow them to group together
2	Retrofitting Highways Traffic circles at congested intersections
3	Restoring Historic Highways – Allow installation of Bike Trails on Historic state Highways (St. Margarets)
0	Do all SAPs (small area plans) together
7	Update natural resource maps for county – Update information on access to water
8	Fewer Zoning Exceptions
5	Public / private partnership – ride sharing, try small test areas first (peninsulas, isolated areas), offer County as a test area for New Technology (driverless cars, etc.)
6	Revise Zoning Laws to reflect Plans & Policies
4	County share data (GIS)
39	Overhaul of Land Use System – use best practices, consider other approaches, permit caps, grandfathering, schools, transportation, infrastructure
25	Raise income taxes to fund these ideas
2	Grandfather rights
10	Connect communities – more ways to get people to what they need, especially for those w/out cars
13	Lack of coordination – storm water, deforestation
7	Bring agencies together – Coordinate on Development
6	Build the right way – within existing infrastructure and walkable
1	Local jobs – accessible by walking
2	Multimodal solutions – bus, carpooling, let's figure out what makes sense for us

<b>Challenges</b>	
<b>Votes</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
15	What to do with retail space no longer needed – How to get private sector to redevelop?
22	Addressing pockets of poverty all over county – Bring opportunity
17	Public transportation – frequency, consistency, highway crossings, more crosswalks, connection points to resources, time issues (ride lengths), outdated transit
10	Affordable and accessible transportation
1	Many parcels of vacant or abandoned federal land
5	How to get people where they want to be
3	Fertilizers & pesticides
26	County resources for implementation/enforcement & monitoring
5	Engagement for transparency
1	Resources for planning/zoning
0	6yr cycle
4	Maintaining affordability while maintaining water quality
11	Development – Barriers & preventing displacement – rent stabilization
3	Storm drainage outdated
14	Storm Water & Drinking Water Quality – plus runoff, incentives to do better
1	Access to Water
0	Drainage
31	Congestion & Traffic (ability to live w/out a car) – State roads, retrofit highways, bay bridge
3	Diverse needs for transportation – rural needs, urban needs, employment patterns
21	Too many density variances allowed – eliminate them, too many modifications
3	Water Management – Burden share, 2yr bonds
12	68% of tree removal allowed
3	Expansion of BWI – need to consider in plan
14	Deforestation – enforcement of critical areas, greenways plan
4	Codification of Small Area Plans
2	Accountability to plans on transportation – app to keep info on plans, ensure communication on 16 areas
11	Placement and type of development – Sensitive areas
20	Litter/Beautification education
1	Clean Air – decrease emissions, renewable energy
3	Diversity of Stakeholders – different needs and expectations for transportation