

# VISIONING WORKSHOP #4 CHAT AND POLL SUMMARY COUNTYWIDE & KENT NARROWS



The purpose of this workshop was to solicit input from the community on topics related to the comprehensive plan as it relates to Kent Narrows 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 Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 5:30pm.



## Chat Conversation Transcript:

1. 5:18 PM Welcome to the 4th PlanQAC Visioning Workshop! We'll be starting right around 5:30, so please take a few moments to familiarize yourself with the various Webex functions shown on the screen.
2. 5:21 PM All of the participants are being muted as we get the workshop started to limit background noises. We'll open up the lines for discussion in a little while.
3. 5:23 PM You can send comments or questions through the chat box at any time. You can also raise your hand by either hovering over your name in the participant list or clicking on the smiley face icon toward the bottom of the screen – in both places you should see a raised hand icon.
4. 5:57 PM Waterways
5. 5:57 PM congestion
6. 6:00 PM Pristine
7. 6:00 PM tourism destination
8. 6:01 PM challenge: making it attractive to residents as a place of community and not just a tourist attraction
9. 6:01 PM Traffic
10. 6:01 PM Pleasant waterfront/walking/shopping/dining and boating
11. 6:01 PM unique crossroads
12. 6:01 PM unique there is not other place like it
13. 6:01 PM challenge of coastal resiliency
14. 6:01 PM The better alternative for family, life and business.
15. 6:02 PM natural environment linked to tourism
16. 6:02 PM Completely agree!
17. 6:02 PM Balance of needs from environment to tourism to housing
18. 6:02 PM key opportunities: Appropriate development in a thoughtful way for all to enjoy.
19. 6:03 PM Greatest opportunity is greatest challenge—ensuring resilience in the face of subsidence and rising sea levels. Making sure the resources that attract residents and visitors are not destroyed in the process,
20. 6:03 PM yes [Commenter 19] and [Verbal Comment]!!!
21. 6:03 PM maritime community
22. 6:04 PM maintaining natural heritage/habitat
23. 6:05 PM Challenge - it is currently a bit disjointed between Kent Narrows north and south side. Not a cohesive area for tourism at this time like Mystic CT or Newport RI

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24. 6:05 PM opportunity: making it much more walkable/bikeable!!!
  25. 6:06 PM both opportunity and a challenge is major road network bisecting district
  26. 6:06 PM high concentration of skill in the maritime trades
  27. 6:06 PM Challenges - Does anyone have any good ideas for the outlets?
  28. 6:07 PM Gateway to the Eastern Shore
  29. 6:07 PM Challenge: SHA's Attention to the area
  30. 6:07 PM outlets: community center!
  31. 6:08 PM The Narrows is very seasonal, so it would be ideal to consider ways of making it a year round area. this could be accomplished by signature event planning and increasing resident involvement.
  32. 6:08 PM Greatest challenges: ditto Outlets, sea level rise, roadway garbage
  33. 6:08 PM We need to support the Narrows businesses year round
  34. 6:09 PM difficulty removing buildings that are falling down
  35. 6:09 PM Should the County buy the outlets?
  36. 6:09 PM the outlet property might be easier to develop if it was a combination of activities, not just retail
  37. 6:09 PM Regarding buildings falling down, if the owners were grandfathered their rights, they may clean them up. currently if they remove dilapidated building, they are on the clock to rebuild
  38. 6:10 PM the outlet property has immediate access to the x-county trail, maybe a YMCA there would be handy
  39. 6:10 PM Need officials to commit to making Kent Narrows a true destination along with beautification and trash containment.
  40. 6:10 PM loooove that [Commenter 38]!
  41. 6:10 PM Good idea [Commenter 38]
  42. 6:10 PM The County should not be competing with private business.
  43. 6:11 PM [Commenter 38], Great idea but I agree with [Commenter 42] comments.
  44. 6:12 PM i didn't realize that a Y would be a County-run business
  45. 6:12 PM I wasn't responding about the YMCA, rather if the County would redevelop with commercial leased space which would compete. I do like the YMCA idea
  46. 6:13 PM Delmarva Power's property cause issue with pedestrian connectivity.
  47. 6:13 PM balancing tourism with quality of life and amenities for residents is important
  48. 6:13 PM yes [Verbal Comment]!!!!
  49. 6:14 PM The Outlets could become a vocational training center?
  50. 6:14 PM [Verbal Comment], Good point. If the County bought the outlets we could incorporate water access into the plan.
  51. 6:14 PM excellent!! agree!
  52. 6:14 PM agree with [Verbal Comment]
  53. 6:14 PM In order to have sustainability the Narrows should be a year round community as well as a destination. Currently not enough year round residents, so it appears pretty lonesome in winter.

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Residents bring friends and family business all year, increase community involvement, cleanliness and security. More eyes and more people with a vested interest in the area.

54. 6:15 PM Yes to [Verbal Comment] point.
55. 6:15 PM [Verbal Comment], good point about adding comment regarding environment to vision statement
56. 6:15 PM Great vision but need gov help in getting there! Private sector can't do it all. Need to re-allocate hotel room tax for tourism promotion and upgrades in the Narrows
57. 6:15 PM I like this vision. Again, referring back to Mystic CT they have managed to make their boating heritage a part of their tourist attraction. Maybe a smaller version of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels. Showcase history and the modern day working waterman
58. 6:16 PM EXTREMELY niche but i would love to see a rail museum on the narrows!!! esp since that's where the old rail bridge was
59. 6:16 PM [Verbal Comment], We could do that if we had control of the outlet property.
60. 6:17 PM I think that we could include comments about protection of environment and suggest" '...while highlighting the heritage and protection for the traditional working waterfront and environment'.....
61. 6:18 PM totally agree w the environment protection aspect
62. 6:18 PM Expand services such as water/sewer, police, roads, etc keeping pace with growth.
63. 6:18 PM I like these ideas, but the reality is that they cost money to build and especially to maintain and operate. We must have tax revenues, whether through business or residential or there simply is a lack of resources to fund these efforts.
64. 6:19 PM Investment in infrastructure needed
65. 6:20 PM yes [Committer 63]!
66. 6:20 PM Opportunity to make the Narrows a true year round destination.
67. 6:20 PM Gateway to the ES, natural resources, small towns and villages
68. 6:20 PM Provide work force housing. Our kids can't afford to live here.
69. 6:20 PM challenge-to capture some of the beach goers for a stopover in the county.
70. 6:20 PM I think that joint public / government clean-up activities along the roads and waterways could easily be coordinated and scheduled by local government / communities.
71. 6:21 PM County water and sewer infrastructure must be improved, especially at the Narrows. Antiquated systems are a hinderance to any new initiative.
72. 6:21 PM QAC seems to be just a pathway to the coast...we need something to grab travelers and make them stay
73. 6:21 PM yeah!!!!!!!!!! we love permeable surfaces and green parking lots!!!!!!
74. 6:21 PM Opportunity AND challenge - create a vibrant walking town like easton St. Michaels where tourists an residents can dine, shop and recreate
75. 6:21 PM yes [Committer 72]!!!!!!!!!!
76. 6:22 PM Challenge: Getting local gov to commit to making this a reality.
77. 6:22 PM overall vision statement for QA is great
78. 6:22 PM Agree with [Verbal Comment] comments

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79. 6:22 PM all i want in life is to be able to have a cute downtown that's more than two blocks wide
  80. 6:23 PM hopefully the County and its citizens won't be complacent about drugs and crime, but that might be a challenge in the future . right now we seem spoiled
  81. 6:23 PM Challenges: Eastern Shore loses its unique character, farmland, natural beauty and becomes just an extension of the western shore. Opportunities: Smart growth, reuse of failed business properties (ie KI Outlets) and protecting and improving natural resources.
  82. 6:23 PM Agee with [Commenter 81]
  83. 6:24 PM We have so many restaurants and therefore a lot of food waste. It would be important to have a compost facility (somewhere in the county) rather than sending all that food to the landfill.
  84. 6:24 PM Agree with [Commenter 81]
  85. 6:24 PM I agree with [Commenter 81]. Repurpose vacant commercial properties.
  86. 6:24 PM I know that there are distinct costs associated with green development. The reality is that we can pay now to best prepare our communities, or we can pay later in disaster relief and retrofits. Either way the county will feel the costs of climate change
  87. 6:24 PM Real life challenge: Covid-19 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 at the Narrows for a long time.
  88. 6:24 PM How to deal with the uncontrolled runoff from 301/50 bridge.
  89. 6:25 PM [Verbal Comment], WE should post the video of the bridge runoff. [Verbal Comment], you should be on this!!!!
  90. 6:25 PM bridge traffic will continue to be a challenge
  91. 6:26 PM LOVE the compost suggestion!
  92. 6:27 PM [Commenter 88], EVERYONE should see those videos, unbelievable this is allowed to happen!
  93. 6:28 PM Challenge: Lack of coordination with state/federal agencies to maintain property related to 301/50 improvements. Much of the maintenance issue lies with the governments.
  94. 6:28 PM I can email videos to you Lauren
  95. 6:28 PM Challenge: How to keep/make KI and the Narrows available to the rest of the County residents during the Summer traffic season.
  96. 6:28 PM OH also re: the narrows and state agencies, there need to be way more crosswalks. people have to cross the street to get to their hotels, to their cars, and they shouldn't have to hope that someone is nice enough to stop for them so they don't get run over
  97. 6:29 PM i brought this up to the commissioners and they said that's a sha issue, the sha said there's no budget for that
  98. 6:29 PM [Commenter 97], that is exactly the issue with the coordination between agencies.
  99. 6:30 PM High tech with our current broadband? :(
  100. 6:31 PM Need to connect fiber!!!!
  101. 6:31 PM Add: A leader on the Eastern Shore for green development, equitable water access, and resiliency in the face of climate change
  102. 6:31 PM excellent addition [Commenter 101]!!!

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103. 6:31 PM Definitely need to improve ability to safely walk around the Narrows.
  104. 6:32 PM It's important to have housing for our kids when they grow up. Purchasing is expensive and we lose a lot of talent when the kids grow up and leave for better opportunity. So needs to be a great place to live & work.
  105. 6:32 PM [Commenter 103], ditto.
  106. 6:33 PM Yes to green development [Commenter 101]!!
  107. 6:33 PM Need to extend Cross Island Trail to Chester, Red Apple Plaza area & apartments.
  108. 6:33 PM Challenges: creating a dependable sustainable funding stream to invest in the major public improvements that need to be phased in over a multi-year period. On-again off-again project funding is inefficient. Focus dollars generated by visitors to the places frequented by visitors.
  109. 6:33 PM yes [Commenter 104]!!
  110. 6:33 PM Need zoning changes that allow for work force housing with controls.
  111. 6:33 PM wish the county permitted alternate surfaces, like pavers. I believe they count any coverage as impervious, which reduces the incentive to use them.
  112. 6:34 PM Agree that Chester needs pedestrian/bicycle access to the Narrows
  113. 6:34 PM We need to expand upon Wes Johnson's vision to connect the County with walking/bike trails.
  114. 6:35 PM Sorry have to go but look forward to this process. Thanks
  115. 6:35 PM If QAC wants to support the education of it's citizens, then why not create a workforce training center? Training can include agriculture, aquaculture, boat repair, tourism, restaurant/chef training programs, ecology, bay protection and cultural heritage training.
  116. 6:35 PM [Verbal Comment] i agree! This should be a multi county initiative
  117. 6:35 PM Yes, those in affordable housing in this area may not have traditional modes of transportation, so if they could walk or bike to Safeway or drugstore this would be beneficial
  118. 6:35 PM Fantastic idea
  119. 6:36 PM [Verbal Comment], We would like to update you on what the EDC is working on. Please contact me.
  120. 6:36 PM I've seen a lot of communities that encourage bike traffic by expanding road surfaces to include bike lanes
  121. 6:37 PM [Verbal Comment], re: work force development and skilled trades training.
  122. 6:37 PM Place more emphasis on the opportunities for connectivity offered through water based transportation.
  123. 6:38 PM would love to see some protected bike lanes! not just sharrows (which don't actually prevent bike accidents or encourage biking)
  124. 6:38 PM i haven't said it tonight so i'll throw it out to this crowd: public transit!!!
  125. 6:39 PM realistic goals/recommendations that are achievable in planning horizon of 10, 20 years
  126. 6:39 PM The Kent Narrows generates a considerable amount of tax revenues for the county, but only a small fraction is reinvested into the area. The roads, sidewalks, etc. reflect the lack of investment here. It makes a difference.
  127. 6:39 PM if traffic is only going to get worse in the future, the County should get behind the idea that a new bay bridge going to a different county is necessary for future development in our County

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128. 6:39 PM Expanding the properties around Chesapeake College into a medical education center.
  129. 6:40 PM There are new opportunities to illuminate land marks and pedestrian ways with new forms of lighting.
  130. 6:40 PM Develop and support an alternative to a new Bay Bridge
  131. 6:40 PM Expand and grow access to health care facilities and senior care facilities like those that are at the Nesbit road area in Grasonville.
  132. 6:40 PM Tourism and Econ Dev offer some type of bounce back coupon for something worthwhile to offer passers-through to serve as an incentive for stopping in QA.
  133. 6:41 PM Limited rezoning of some rural areas for work force housing that our kids can afford.
  134. 6:41 PM <https://www.delmarvanow.com/story/news/2021/02/01/salisbury-approves-new-task-force-environment-policy-document/4294018001/> This is a link to an article summarizing Salisbury MD's green initiatives - Kent island could adopt many of these and 10- 20s years is plenty of time
  135. 6:41 PM Putting the bridge anywhere else is a mistake. The road improvements that would come with the bridge will improve traffic flow from the bridge to the 301 split. Traffic is due to increase significantly as a result of the federal highway project in Delaware, so they are coming this way whether we like it or not. Blocking the bridge will create gridlock.
  136. 6:41 PM Ferries as an alternative to a third span across the bay??
  137. 6:41 PM i would adore a ferry system
  138. 6:42 PM the transit study said they weren't feasible but i have issues with that transit study for a lot of reasons
  139. 6:42 PM build strong heritage tourism
  140. 6:42 PM Attract some type of broadcast radio or TV station for QAC. We get our news from Annapolis, Baltimore, Salisbury. There is no outlet to specifically disseminate information to QAC residents and businesses.
  141. 6:42 PM storm water management systems improved drastically with health of the Chesapeake and its tributaries in mind!
  142. 6:44 PM RFP for a ferry. I also think it could attract more tourists to the county.
  143. 6:44 PM exactly [Commenter 136]!!! like Cape May-Lewes
  144. 6:47 PM I took too long lol:
  145. 6:48 PM Environment for Kent Narrows. Traffic flow improvement for QAC.
  146. 6:48 PM continue to remain committed to the excellent vision statement
  147. 6:49 PM for Kent Narrows, the outlets have been empty for 20 years now. the County should prioritize putting the property into usefulness
  148. 6:49 PM Kent Narrows: County should prioritize the area and invest into the infrastructure and public areas, including maintenance. Making a comfortable and safe place to walk and bike, so visitors and residents can enjoy the beautiful environment and waterways that we have to offer.
  149. 6:49 PM signing off - happy to see so much participation in the public process!!
  150. 6:49 PM Kent Narrows: Concentrated Investment in public infrastructure and maintenance
  151. 6:50 PM Lauren, You rushed our comments.



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152. 6:51 PM Environmental restoration and preservation to offset effects of climate change. build community by creating opportunities for residents to get involved. Empty outlets could be turned into community gardens, an entire nature complex involving water access for kayaking etc..
153. 6:52 PM If they are able to connect the side roads throughout KI, the traffic will flow much more freely. As it stands, any back road traffic is routed over the single overpass in the middle of KI. I do not see the county ever investing the significant funds needed to do this improvement without the bridge funds.
154. 6:53 PM a bridge over cox creek on the south side of rte 50 would be Great
155. 6:53 PM yes
156. 6:53 PM Yep
157. 6:56 PM cox creek connector will not solve the problem
158. 6:59 PM the updates to website and emails have been very helpful, thank you!
159. 6:59 PM Lauren, Do you have an email we can make comments to?
160. 7:00 PM Cox Creek boardwalk (South of Rt. 50) for pedestrians/bicycles would be very helpful.
161. 7:01 PM thanks again, Lauren
162. 7:01 PM Great job Lauren! Thanks.
163. 7:01 PM you can make comment here.
164. 7:01 PM <https://www.qacplan2021.com/>
165. 7:01 PM <https://www.qacplan2021.com/contact-feedback>
166. 7:01 PM Got it. Thanks.
167. 7:02 PM Thanks to all from the Kent NArrows Development Foundation
168. 7:03 PM Lots of great energy here!

### Poll Results:

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

- paradise
- resiliency
- recreation
- Kent Narrows
- summer traffic jams
- water
- beautiful nature
- Hospitality
- Boating
- Natural beauty
- behind
- Tourism
- Destination
- congestion

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## What should PlanQAC's most important priority be for Kent Narrows?

- resiliency
- making it an actual Place and not just a collection of restaurants hotels and parking lots
- Cohesive landscaping/greenscaping plan including planters, benches, sidewalks and lighting. More pedestrian/bicycle friendly.
- Connectivity
- Coordinated progress. More control by local stakeholders.
- Make the area more cohesive and safely walkable and bikeable
- Keeping it clean and kept.

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

- fix traffic and many of the suggestions are doable
- green development and environmental conservation
- making it an actual Place and not just a bunch of fast food restaurants around rt 50
- Resiliency and management of traffic
- Environmental protection and present the environment as an asset to the county.
- Controlled growth without heavy influence from a few loud no-growthers unwilling to work and compromise with local
- Bringing business. Bigger priority for jobs for younger adults.
- the empty outlets have sat there without business for 20 years now, the County should prioritize putting that property to good use