

SUMMARY OF SURVEY 2

The year-long Fauquier County Community Conversations engagement process included the use of online surveys as a method for gathering broader input from residents. The County shared results from these surveys throughout the process with county leaders, stakeholders, and the general public via the Community Conversations website. Over the course of this process, survey responses helped guide and shape the outcomes of the project. This document contains a summary of Survey 2.

Survey 2 Summary

Q1 - In which community do you live?	Count of Responses
Warrenton	26
New Baltimore	14
Other	12
No Response	8
Marshall	8
Delaplane	6
Sumerduck	3
The Plains	2
Bristerburg	2
Bealeton	2
Hume	2
Catlett	2
Orlean	2
Calverton	1
Markham	1
Midland	1
Ada	1
Upperville	1
Grand Total	94

Q2 - What is your age range?	Count of Responses
50 to 59	29
60 to 69	20
40 to 49	17
30 to 39	14
18 to 29	6
70 or older	5
No Response	2
Younger than 18	1
Grand Total	94

Q3 - From the following list, what do you think are the 3 most important challenges the county will face in achieving its vision? (choose three)	Count of Responses
Lack of local job growth and employment	41
Changing agriculture/Loss of farmland	35
Development Pressure from Northern Virginia	33
Controlling location and form of development	32
Desires of the Millennial generation	22
Aging Population Needs	20
Urbanization	15
Water Scarcity	13
Population Growth	13
Increased demand for Health Care/Social Services	7
Climate Change	5
Need for travel options other than automobiles	5
Diversity of population	3
Increased role of Government	3
Other	1

Q4 - From the following list, what do you think are the 3 most important opportunities for the County to help achieve its vision? (choose 3)	Count of Responses
Telework through improved broadband service	37
Focusing growth in Service Districts, Towns and Villages	33
Protection of rural character and open space	33
Business startups/local job growth	31
Investing in infrastructure to create great places and walkable communities	26
Local markets for agriculture	20
Affordable housing	16
Protection of historic resources	14
Protection and use of water resources	14
Road Expansion/improvements	10
Public transportation	7
Improved public education	6
Recreation opportunities such as multipurpose trails	5
Tourism	5
Improved K-12 public school education	3
Developing/promoting green energy sources	3
Improved higher education	1
Improved vocational/workforce training	1

Q4 - From the following list, what do you think are the 3 most important opportunities for the County to help achieve its vision? (choose 3)	Count of Responses
Other	0

Q5 - Based on your responses to Question 3 and 4 above, please identify challenges and opportunities that may be directly related and how these opportunities may offer solutions to specific challenges you've identified?

N/A
<p>As our population ages we need transportation options for them as well as social and intellectual things for them to do. By the same token, for the millenials and other age groups we also need things for them to do here in our county so they don't have to constantly go to another county for things like shopping or entertainment. We are supposed to be concentrating development in our business districts yet, whenever a business that is well known (ex. Costco) comes up in the news as being interested in a location within a district they are chased away by those that live in the district and don't want them in their backyards. People who choose to live in a business district need to understand that is where the development is going to be. As our residents have to spend more and more time outside our county because that's where the jobs and the amenities are, they become more and more disconnected to the community they live in. To get people connected we need to keep them working and living locally, otherwise we are simply a bedroom community.</p>
<p>The most important thing for Fauquier to do BY FAR---is to protect what we have---the rural beauty, green space, peace&quiet, LOW development. The reason people live here is for the escape from the garbage of northern Virginia---if we continue to develop as we have been, we will be no different from the rest of NoVa. Why live here? Fauquier needs to stay different, an escape--not more cookie-cutter developments. We have too many of them already.</p>
<p>Almost every element of question 3 and 4 is absolutely necessary. Picking just three is meaningless in creating Balanced, Complete COmmunities. Moreover, every one of these efforts could be undertaken well or badly depending on the resources, talent and quality of the detailed program applied.</p>
<p>Second form filled out trying to get back to Broadband survey</p>
<p>Since there will be massive development pressure, we must control it. We can turn it into sustainable communities that appeal to millennials. Keep then self contained within service districts.</p>

<p>Q5 - Based on your responses to Question 3 and 4 above, please identify challenges and opportunities that may be directly related and how these opportunities may offer solutions to specific challenges you've identified?</p>
<p>This question is really hard to follow :) But we do not have to give into pressures. We have the opportunity to just say 'no.' The more uniquely we preserve what others are losing - the more desirable and valuable a place we create. Our vision is actually not 'compact growth' -- it is preservation - and avoiding growth. It also is not 'expanding business and employment opportunities." Those are right next door-and are why so many folks move here when they work elsewhere. (besides the fact that work location is becoming more a mute point due to remote working) “Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.” — Theodore Roosevelt</p>
<p>So many people living in Warrenton must commute to make a decent living and economic development is going to have to take place! The commute is getting more and more difficult. We also want the development that is happening to be well thought out. I want to see the charm of Old Town to stay, but we must get more unique shops, better parking, and good restaurants there. The quality of businesses on the Bypass need to get better...we lose a lot tax dollars to Gainesville! Just a note, I am thrilled we have Marshalls now, but rarely go to Pebbles!</p>
<p>The biggest challenge will be to change the mindset of those that live in the county that feel they can still rule by dollars. I also think the PEC plays a hand in keeping land from being developed. Not everything in the county can be developed along the Rt 29 corridor this just leads to traffic congestion. The southern end of the county is under developed and overlooked. The small towns within the county need a comprehensive development plan so they all see positive growth.</p>
<p>Getting public access to the Rappahannock River would help the southern Fauquier economy. Mapping the County's water resources and groundwater reserves, and possibly putting in water district overlays, may help preserve drinking water for the future.</p>
<p>Access to high speed internet would give the county such an opportunity to get ahead of all these challenges. Agricultural and health care services in the future will rely on connectivity to gigabit internet speeds. Fiber to the home is a necessity not a luxury we can not overlook any further!</p>
<p>Almost all off these issues would be resolved if there was broadband infrastructure that allowed all citizens to access the Internet through a high speed connection. Anyone in the county without a connection of atleast 100mbps is severely disadvantaged.</p>
<p>Telecommunications infrastructure needs to be upgraded to provide broadband that is no longer a luxury but a necessity for any individual or small business to compete in a digital age.</p>
<p>Gigabit speeds are the new benchmark in internet connectivity and a large portion of the county only has dial up internet service.</p>

Q5 - Based on your responses to Question 3 and 4 above, please identify challenges and opportunities that may be directly related and how these opportunities may offer solutions to specific challenges you've identified?
Improved broadband is critical for community safety and telecommuting. Open space and agriculture define the communities in many socially and financially positive ways. Service districts offer concentrated options for living and reduced travel issues.
Development of business centers to attract viable businesses / employees allowing for limited distances Fauquier citizens would need to travel to find solid employment opportunities.
The changing demographics of increased population will present considerable challenges, notably, many will find it impossible to meet the rising tax level as you invest in infrastructure. The best way to keep things from becoming another large bedroom community like Fairfax is to keep taxes low and DON'T invest in more infrastructure. Otherwise, Warrenton will lose everything that drew people here in the first place. The farms will become subdivisions, and people will lose everything if wages do not rise. Commuters who travel to D.C on a daily basis will not be able to afford to drive. Keep population low. Otherwise, everyone will lose their homes but the ultra rich. Wages have not risen in 30 years. How many people do you know who can afford to travel to DC on 45K a year?
I think it's apparent that the aging legacy network infrastructure that has been ignored for over 20 years is not up to the task of handling our telecommunications needs county wide. Cellular service is not a substitute for a wired connection. Comcast refuses to expand into areas with low population density. Its 2016 and many parts of the county still only have dial up Internet access as the only wired service available at their home. It's impossible for businesses outside of the network infrastructure to compete with businesses that have this access. Our farm would love to offer a farm to table service but without access it's impossible. if Verizon and Comcast are not willing to expand coverage th government should be able to provide coverage to anyone who wants access through subsidies and alternative networks. The lack of competition is detrimental to us all and we will be forced to move to another area of and all our precious farmland to a developer to meet these needs without immediate action from the county.
Keeping more people in the county for work rather than commuting to NOVA, while protecting the character of the County.
Developing walk-able neighborhoods with affordable/accessible housing for both millennials and the aging population provides quality of life assets to a varied population. Those new in the workforce will benefits from start ups and a reasonable cost of living while those approaching or in retirement age will have easily accessible services and community. It makes the most sense to create these fully functioning work/live neighborhoods within the service districts. Trends indicate that folks want to "live more and work less." This means less time on the road commuting, less/smaller house/property to care for, more liquid cash (to spend in local businesses) and a greater sense of community. Our green spaces outside of the service districts still provide agriculture revenue as well as pride of place and aesthetic rural beauty. Home!!
Funding for schools that are deteriorating and also the fields for sports
No new housing developments.

Q5 - Based on your responses to Question 3 and 4 above, please identify challenges and opportunities that may be directly related and how these opportunities may offer solutions to specific challenges you've identified?

Strict zoning laws to protect rural feel, land use and businesses/activities in residential areas. Reduce land zoning categories to a few with specific uses to reduce "use loopholes". Re-write arcane zoning laws for this century. Promote "rural feel with business friendly attitude", while setting up specific use areas for each. Do not allow anymore "high density housing" which only benefits land owners and speculators.

Telework through improved broadband service: As a Realtor we have seen missed opportunities in sales because Fauquier County lacks consistent high speed broadband, and some cases just outside existing service districts. Many of the home buyers and current residents work from home (telework), which does decrease traffic on our roadways. The County really needs to focus their energy in expanding the current Comcast and Verizon services especially in Marshall, Rectortown, Delaplane and The Plains. Cellular services are weak in these areas.

Focusing Growth within the Service Districts: This means improving the water and sewer capacity within the service districts. For several decades, controlling the water and sewer availability has been a tool for the County to restrict growth. I am in favor of such restrictions outside of the service districts. However, there are current building lots in Marshall, for instance, that cannot purchase a water tap. Improving the infrastructure will promote growth within the service districts and inspire companies to invest, and ultimately create a true live/work community.

The Aging population: We have a deficit of housing for our aging community. Many couples would like to downsize from their large (3,000 SF) home to something under 1,700 SF that is possibly on one level. This would mean allowing for smaller lots and additional communities within the service districts. These same individuals would like the opportunity to walk to church, shops and be near their friends of many decades. Moving to Prince William to satisfy these requirements are not feasible for them.

Agriculture is vital to the community and the world in general. As the general public becomes farther removed from the farm and less educated about where their food actually comes from it is important that we protect ag land and farmers.

We need to allow for healthy growth in Fauquier by planning communities carefully and investing in this healthy growth. We like our small towns small, but we need them to be vibrant as well.

How does the community become vibrant and attractive to accommodate our rural nature. I don't know of many vibrant rural communities. How do we stay relevant while still being quaint?

More focus on agricultural preservation

Limit special exceptions to zoning so development cannot do outside defined locations.

Do not allow additional density without an building right offset until water supplies are know and evaluated.

<p>Q5 - Based on your responses to Question 3 and 4 above, please identify challenges and opportunities that may be directly related and how these opportunities may offer solutions to specific challenges you've identified?</p>
<p>We need to protect our open space, which protects our water and air quality, and keep what locals and visitors love so much (beauty and nature). And we need to keep growth in growth areas, and provide incentives to new businesses in the growth areas. Our youth (and adults) could also use options such as a theater, small music venue and more trails. And we need to help our struggling farmers in any way we can.</p>
<p>Time to add business opportunities in the service districts. We must attract a better business base, offering jobs and taxes, for the good of all.</p>
<p>Providing broadband to our rural communities is challenging and will require creative solutions; but accomplishing this will provide opportunities to improve our schools and increase economic development</p>
<p>Congestion from traffic is becoming a growing concern, especially with the demands it is placing on highly frequented roads around the county.</p>
<p>We need to have a good long-range plan, and the regulatory support that comes from it (zoning, ordinances). And we have to follow the plan: every time some development wants to build something that doesn't meet the zoning requirements or follow the long-term plan, the Board of Supervisors can't make an exception. No matter how much money the development will claim to bring, and no matter whether the developer threatens to sue. If we don't have a solid plan and follow it and enforce it, we might as well have no plan at all. Our history shows, however, that every time a developer asks for an exception or change to zoning, the county rolls over and lets them have it. The result is that we have basically unregulated growth.</p>
<p>Job growth is going to be very important to a every increasing population,like or not,just like taxes as well. Then comes public services and the rest.The only way to get the strong financial support will be thru the service districts.That is why they were created in the first place. The State is broke anyway.</p>
<p>Responding to the needs of the working public (millennial generation) by paying attention to our town and service offerings, introducing new businesses and better telecommuting opportunities with adequate broadband. These improvements will also mean more jobs and more professional jobs which will in turn start churning our economy. We also need to go back to our town (and bypass) beautification plans and make that corridor less unsightly. Additionally, acknowledge quality public education with upgraded buildings and state of the art (high tech) resources and of course increasing the incentives for educators with better salaries - comparable to other northern VA counties - makes for better (and more productive) educators. Keep or help our public schools be a reason why people want to live and work in Fauquier County.</p>
<p>Low latency high bandwidth connections to the Internet are necessary for our economy to survive in the digital age. The lack of wired access affects property values throughout the county and for many telecommuters to relocate to communities that have this service. Not to mention all the health care opportunities and agriculture technology that can't be utilities because we do not have access to the Internet. Please figure out a way to connect those areas of the county with low population density or the alternative is that the valuable farmland will inevitably be sold to a developer who will add the necessary homes to meet that population density requirement.</p>

Q5 - Based on your responses to Question 3 and 4 above, please identify challenges and opportunities that may be directly related and how these opportunities may offer solutions to specific challenges you've identified?

It is difficult to see the changes in the county. I resent the ever-increasing tax rate and lack of services in kind. I resent that ALL of the growth and development is targeted at the southern end of the county, consuming PRODUCTIVE farm land and preserving only "horse country." This county's agriculture is among the most diverse in the state, yet that diversity is being rapidly destroyed by the county caving into pressure from developers and people from Northern Virginia who want to move to a more rural place. The most frustrating thing is when the people move here, they have no desire to adapt to a rural way of life. They want their city amenities while living in the country. The tax rate is gradually driving many who were raised here out of the county. It is becoming increasingly oppressive to pay the county taxes.

Also oppressive is the ridiculous "dog tax," as I call it. Why in the world do we require citizens to register dogs? Do we require them to register cats, chickens, cows, goats - is that something yet to come? The county administration seems to have forgotten that this county is rural and that our biggest industry is agriculture - still; there are always "farm dogs." Why in the world would we do this to our people? Why would we trample on the people who make this county what it is?

Opportunities include re-planning for denser growth in service districts. Making this town an entertainment/quality of life destination, and going out and finding the development we want. Also we need the ability to issue bonds to raise the monies to transform ourselves. Example: Look at the investment Boston made in its "Big Dig" project. We could make an investment in the future like they did, but of course on a much smaller scale.

It is very difficult to conduct business due to the lack of cell service & internet

Emphasis on commuter buses and VRE access for transportation; promoting local agricultural endeavors and keeping things localized whenever possible. Believe we could keep more county resources within the county via incentives to our teachers - not many seem to live IN Fauquier!

If Fauquier County and Warrenton want to develop into a positive place for people to live, work and enjoy, then the old school cultural attitudes need to change. Development has to be a cooperative effort with developers and the community. Unfortunately, changing culture is very difficult. It requires great leadership. I wish your organization the very best of luck.

Providing increased density in towns for affordable housing may encourage development of affordable housing and help to alleviate the housing burden faced by seniors and other county residents.

Limiting growth to preserve existing wells

The vision and knowledge of County leaders

Increase in population will threaten compliance with the Comprehensive Plan. Need strong political will to uphold zoning laws, and preserve strong local authority in a Dillon Rule state.

Q5 - Based on your responses to Question 3 and 4 above, please identify challenges and opportunities that may be directly related and how these opportunities may offer solutions to specific challenges you've identified?

We need improved broadband to allow for economic growth and job opportunities and land preservation (folks can work from home and reduce the need for transportation or office space construction). We need affordable housing to have a local workforce, to enjoy a diverse community, and to enable people of all incomes to enjoy the county. We need more tourism because it brings income without adding demand on services.

Fauquier has done very well in preserving open space and maintaining the sense of a rural community while offering high quality services. However, much of the agriculture land (and particularly land in conservation easement) is not utilized in ways that generates income and jobs. To preserve the rural-urban balance we need to seek ways to increase investment in the modernization of agriculture and integration with emerging and established agriculture markets.