

The following are answers to the questions asked of participants in the Public Meeting kickoff on 1/27/20. Approximately 50 people were in attendance. After a short presentation on the purpose of the Strategic Plan and the process, there was a group discussion of County attributes and issues.

What one word best describes the character of New Kent County?

- Family
- Quiet
- Rural
- Friendly
- History
- Heritage
- Growing
- Spiritual
- Progressive

If you were creating a postcard for New Kent County, what single image would you use that best represents the community?

- Sunset over the Pamunkey River
- Cows
- Forests and trees
- Family farm
- Food Lion (3)
- School activities
- Winery (4)
- Youth Sports
- Country Fair
- Old Courthouse
- Sign of I-64 with miles/minutes to locations
- Farmers Market
- Christmas Parade
- Horse Racing

If a travel writer came to New Kent County to do a story about what makes the community unique, what ideas would you pitch to showcase the County?

- Martha Washington
- People don't want writers bringing people here
- Beds & Breakfast, Wineries for short-term visitors
- Civil war ghost stories
- Greene v. New Kent County decision (school desegregation)
- Therapeutic writing center
- Convent
- Chickahominy Indians/river

Family Game: Describe communities in the area as a person in a family. What are their character traits & personality?

- Richmond
 - High school valedictorian
 - High-end professional
 - Loves history
 - Cousin Eddie from Vacation
- Williamsburg
 - Academic
 - Wears a tweed jacket
 - Stuffy
 - High-end
 - Knows everybody
 - Will buy an \$8 hamburger for \$20
- New Kent County
 - Foster child that people don't pay attention to (City between Richmond & Williamsburg)
 - Doesn't get the attention it needs (e.g. Interstate is 2-lanes through NKC but wider in surrounding localities)

Who are New Kent County's competitors?

- Hanover County
- Goochland
- Powhatan (with its growth)
- King William County
- Henrico County

What would like to do or get in New Kent County that you can't today?

- Broadband internet
- Better control of traffic (weekend bad for local residents on Routes 249 and 60; residents get trapped in running errands)
- People on I-64 drain local services (police, fire, rescue). Need to get people who drive through to leave investment in the County, not just pass through
- More variety in grocery stores
- Keep money in the community (no leaking sales to other communities)
- Better restaurants
- Reason for kids to stay – employment! Such as a data center, movie center, day care, Cracker Barrel, etc.
- Accommodations for older adults and gathering places to support seniors
- Need population density for investment purposes
- There is no marina and no access to the rivers. Need one

As we craft this plan, vision and strategies, what should we make sure to do or not do?

- Don't leave anybody behind (aging, students, etc.)
- Do look at the 2030 survey by Partnership New Kent (good questions and responses)
- Don't let the plan be stagnant and sit on the shelf.
- Do make sure County infrastructure can support the recommendations of the plan.
- Do consider impacts on water, roads, natural resources.
- Do keep the plan alive; make it be a part of the Comprehensive Plan. Connect the plans. Use the strategic plan as a steppingstone for other plans.
- Don't turn Route 60 into a turnpike

What one change would you like to make in the County?

- Broadband

What is your vision of New Kent County in the next 10 years?

- Major investment occurs between interchanges
- Protect corridors and character of the County but do it at the nodes.
- Make the County what we want it to be
- Don't want to be a bedroom community for Richmond and Williamsburg
- There are different areas of the County; need to understand those differences
- Be able to say that we did it