

# CAP 30-Day Public Comment Period In-Person Meetings

Attachment #4-Public Comments-In-Person Meetings

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November 15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021

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**NOTE:** The transcripts for the in-person meetings were provided by a professional contractor. Transcripts provided were not verbatim, did not capture the name and spelling of all speakers, did not clearly indicate transition between speakers, or provide complete quotes of each comment. County staff have made assumptions of when speakers traded off and have indicated when a speaker was unknown with UNK.

The transcripts in this document have also been abridged to focus on public comments directly related to the draft CAP. Each meeting started off with a brief presentation from County staff and included various degrees of Q&A throughout the meeting. These County facilitated discussions are summarized in italics. The only exclusions made by the County staff included comments not related to the draft CAP or process related questions (e.g., should I stand up to speak, hello, thank you, goodbye, etc.).

# CAP 30-Day Public Comment Period In-Person Meeting (College Park): November 15, 2021

## Abridged Transcript

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>> **ANDREA CROOMS:** *Welcome, background on the County's Climate Action Plan (CAP) development process, review of the County's commitment to leadership and transformational change, and goal of inclusive and equitable implementation.*

>> **DAWN HAWKINS-NIXON:** *Summary of CAP and highlights from the Plan. Presentation included County's greenhouse gas emissions, climate hazards and impacts, CAP guiding principles, focus on just and equitable implementation, strategies, and recommendations for taking action to achieve a low-carbon resilient Prince George's County.*

**COUNTY Q&A:** *Are recommendations in order of priority? Benefit Cost analysis? Garden Tax, Federal funds, etc.*

### **OFFICIAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

>> **DAVE BROSCH:** Sure. Good evening. I hope I can do this in two minutes. My name is Dave Brosh. I live in University Park. My wife and I moved there 41 years ago and I'm here and we raised three children and we love this community. I was elected to the university panel council four times and by Prince George's County club, executive committee and now serve object county's solid waste advisory commission. We as a nation have done much to protect our environment there is now a realization that we have fallen short and face an impending climate catastrophe and I think we all know that. Reasonably concluded in the last bill climate summit more than 100 nations pledged to act decisively over the next decade to keep climate temperatures under 125 degrees and avoid increasing dire impacts certainly to climate.

Life as usual is no longer acceptable and continued action will actually be dangerous and deadly path for all of us and the county is developing a climate plan and I fully support it. Many stated that proclamations is to be transformed into action and likewise the county's draft plan now for residents and businesses in county government must be approved and implemented.

And I would like to suggest five things that the county can do to help plan more successful. They include these...information sharing and education, establishment of a new office staffed by experts in a wide range of fields that can guide residents and businesses through the complicated world of going green, whether it be transportation, construction, energy, development, recycling, waste management. This is critically important and there is an example which I would like to share with anybody if we have more time. We did this something similar in town and the reason why we were very effective in spending some of this money and getting efficient is because we had a series -- a group of people who actually worked with people going step by step.

Development protection of our local fire arms and we need to move away from fossil fuels that -- we need to rely on renewables particularly solid. Something that we have to for this there is an alternative,

the county is tens of miles of Pepco transmission lines right of ways and line...and it could be in our near urbanized areas. Share this space with the overhead lines. There is no need to cut down trees or use...

30 seconds. Well, I'll tell you what the other three are and at some point, explain.

The third is methane commissions and reduction and composting and there is a lot we can do here. Protection and enhancements to our forest and trees and not only should we add trees but we should protect the trees that are there and we have forests including something at Gilford Woods which is right nearby which we hope to protect and the fifth is banning use of turf in playing fields across the counties, schools and some of the private school areas.

And they have a lot of bad affects. Thank you.

>> **ANDREA CROOMS:** *Is there anyone else who would like to make a public comment over here today?*

>**UNK:** Other than do it you mean?

> **ANDREA CROOMS:** *Do it is a great comment. I love that comment.*

>> **UNK:** I saw what you wrote and I haven't seen the details but, you know, you got to get off the runs. It's already 20 years too late. Probably 50, but anyway... yeah.

>> **UNK:** This is more about the running of these meetings. It looks like I'm maybe the only one -- why was I -- why was it two minutes when we have probably another hour.

> **COUNTY:** *Following the procedural process for a public meeting in Prince George's County. If there is additional time, folks are welcome to come forward again to provide additional comments.*

>>**UNK:** So I was going to ask who sees these comments? Why are the comments important?

> **COUNTY:** *The County Council will be provided the draft CAP as is, a supplemental report summarizing public feedback, and a package of all public feedback. Comments will be a matter of public record which is vital.*

> **UNK:** Okay. Well, the thrust of the question was is the comment going to actually be looked at by somebody and be useful?

> **COUNTY:** *DoE will review comments and use it to inform implementation. The Council will ultimately be responsible for determining how to advance the draft CAP and address the public feedback.*

>>**DAVE BROSCHE:** I want to thank the staff tonight and everybody here for listening to me for a second time and I didn't mean to be antagonistic. I thought we had some time here tonight so I would like to maybe finish what I started.

I won't be too long. I was talking about five areas which I think could help reinforce what you would be doing, applying it...and some of these may be already at least covered to some degree but I think they should really be -- we should focus on some of these. The third one -- I first talked about having a community or agency or division or something really experts to help because it really does make a difference and we learn that at University Park and when we got a million and a half gallon energy efficiency program and it really made a difference being able to get out and talk to people and explain what they need to do and how they bring people into help them make these decisions.

Metahane to me is really important and we have probably the largest place where we have methane in

this county and we probably have a lot of people digging or drilling for natural gas but we do have a lot of methane in our land fills. Not only the current land fill which is Brown Station which has a place where it has a system which is pulling in some methane that's been generated out and being used but there are probably places in the county where old land fills which have been closed to probably create methane right now and they may have some way of recovering them but there's probably a lot that's still going into the atmosphere and I just learned yesterday that methane will continue to be generated for another hundred years in most of our land fills so it's something we need to think about and act upon.

Protection of our forests and I already mentioned this briefly but I think it's critically important we have places where we develop around and we develop oftentimes it's clear cut. Trees come down and they say we're replacing them somewhere else in the county. It may take those little saplings 50 or 100 years before it's bigger than the forest coming down so protecting the forest that we have here and trying to develop other places nearby but trying to retain these forests to me is really important.

The last thing is this artificial turf fields which I'm just starting to learn about and to me this is absolutely a disaster for kids' health, create small islands and it's not recyclable and often times it gets thrown in hillside somewhere and you can't recycling it and huge amounts of what is called tire crumb. I just saw recent place where there's 50 or 60 tons of this has been put in a field. A lot of this actually blows away or goes into our stream. This is really a bad thing. We should have fields, natural turf fields, natural grass and not these plastic fields which are just another way of someone making money, a way of disposing of old tires but not really helping the environment. Thank you for your time and thanks again for letting me come back and talk.

>>**CHRIS DULNIK:** Hi, folks. I know I'm talking to you but I'll really addressing this to the people who are going to read this report because you're here. My name is Chris Dulnik. Engineer, yes, I work at NASA. That doesn't mean anything other than I know about how science works and I recommend to whoever does this to definitely look at cost benefit. Think at things of like transportation is number one. If you're going to put money out, put it into electric buses. Maybe some sort of deal with -- something for the car rental places to focus on electric cars. Most of the transportation problems are from the panel lands and long-term trucks and whatnot so those are the things that replace that first, you know, that's like 20, 25% of the problem. The rest is cars. So that's to attack that. You mentioned storm water management. So if you're going to spend money on storm water, you're not really addressing global climate change at that point. You're addressing the effects of it and putting infrastructure into what's live with climate change. No, that's not what we want to do. We want to reverse it and I realize if every other county in the world doesn't do this, this is my work, but you know that's the -- we do it one at a time. So the key is to address things that will actually affect climate change and to do it in a most cost effective way possible.

Maybe have people in your group to explain to residents how electric cars cost less over time, the total cost of ownership is less, things like that.

And, you know, talk to the solar panels. I seen that Prince George's County does have a solar panel plan. I don't know the details of it but explain to them in 10 or 12 years it will pay for itself. If you want to be in that house for more than 10 or 12 years, after that it's great and so on. It's knowledge that's probably more important here and applying it in the most efficient way to help with the climate. Thank you.

>>**DAN SMITH:** Hello. My name is Dan Smith from Cheverly and just following up to the comments I made last week in the virtual meeting...I think there is a great deal of admirable emphasis on tree

planting or benefits of tree canopy and tree coverage and also I see what -- I haven't gotten through it all but I see the dialogue about comparing tree retention with tree planting and I think that's where we really are losing the game right now and that there is so much extensive tree loss and when we're comparing eco systems service of a tree it's just -- I mean, you could have ten, 10-year-old new trees, those ten are not going to produce eco system services of one large oak. In fact, I have got five large oaks in my backyard. It's not going to be the equivalent of that. And we just went through in the pandemic in our community in Cheverly a proposal by a developer to remove -- to expand the footprint and remove four acres of forested flood plant. That plan through our county planning office planning board, county council like that (INDICATING) because it was for Amazon Distribution Center. They were all over that. During the pandemic, they would not allow the citizens extra time to look at this plan. They fast tracked the planning process. At the same time, they were giving I think reasonable allowances for people to meet other obligations so you didn't have to get your driver's license renewed. There were certain things and planning was not one that was let up.

So I think there is a huge uphill lift in the county with smart development and smart growth and so I appreciate all that's in the plan and just to reiterate that the politics around that are going to be phenomenal and so, you know, the more we can get buy-in on these principles or concepts, the better we can do to implement that and there is smart development. I mean, we can develop up and more dense and around and still accommodate the needs rather than to do it in this experience where you just had that building is built, is proposed a year and a half ago when the community first heard about it. It went through in record

## **CAP 30-Day Public Comment Period In-Person Meeting (Clinton): November 17, 2021 Abridged Transcript**

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**>>DAWN HAWKINS-NIXON:** *Welcome, background on the County's Climate Action Plan (CAP) development process, review of the County's commitment to leadership and transformational change, and goal of inclusive and equitable implementation. Summary of CAP and highlights from the Plan. Presentation included County's greenhouse gas emissions, climate hazards and impacts, CAP guiding principles, focus on just and equitable implementation, strategies, and recommendations for taking action to achieve a low-carbon resilient Prince George's County.*

**>>UNK:** No. I just want to make comments. I have to tell you -- can I take this off?

It's very frustrating living in this area. This is my little world, okay. A lot of these things are so great and thank you for what you do. Pepco does a great job by the way I think. You know, they came to our house with all the environmental stuff and great, and then we have the whatchamacallits on our house, the solar panels, but the courses about the -- I just spent another 45 minutes to get from the metro, Branch Avenue to here and I think there would have been more people and stop me if I'm going off. But it's night after night after accident after accident. I live very close to the hospital and once a week somebody is hurt but the issue is the traffic. It gets heavier and heavier and the emissions. So is Maryland giving enough money to Metro to subsidize say like they are fixing it now, right?

There was a derailment. So maybe more of us would be on it or I'd be on it more if it didn't take me an hour and a half one way because of fixing something -- you know what I'm saying?

It's not matching -- like this is really ambitious but it's not matching reality. Maybe it's just my little world but it seems like everyone is going into the city, going into Northern Virginia to work and we are all in cars. And if you look at here, Piscataway cannot stand anymore traffic so I don't know how that fits but if you can let somebody know that. And so they're building on Route 5, on Earnshaw, they are building these huge communities for people that are going to enter, exit on Route 5, it's insanity. Who is making these decisions in this area about traffic. I mean, are we giving Metro enough money?

It's a tristate thing, okay. It's almost empty now. I know COVID was an issue but you can't spend an hour and a half to get to work one way. And the other issue I have to tell you is there is just filth all around this area. There's garbage everywhere. There's litter. I can give you streets, people throw their furniture -- I mean, this is climate, right?

Missouri Avenue, Lusby Lane, on the highway, they'll throw stuff out the window. I mean, it's like a foreign country or something. It's crazy. They just throw litter so it's garbage everywhere so it's like you have these ambitious plans, there's garbage, crime doesn't really fit in but you our not focusing on what's in front of us. The other thing is recycling, we need to start recycling clothing. We are the only county in Maryland that recycles clothing so I spent this time talking to this poor woman -- there is one woman, keep Prince George's County beautiful and she's only one person and I never heard from her. I don't blame her. I don't know. This is a crazy place to live. My name is Mary Moltumyr. But does anyone else see the garbage and litter in every parking lot on the sides of the street near M&T Bank?

Have you ever gone into that parking lot and if you look down there's water and those poor birds,

chickens, I don't know what they are, wild geese, it's just disgusting. I'm sorry. It's disgusting. It's not all of the county. Of course, there's beautiful parts, but I mean so to me all this is a very grandiose and it's very good and the water thing is, really great stuff. I commend you on the detail and everything, but the reality is like I look at it like it's just dirty.

And there's homeless people by the way putting up tents. I don't know if people know that. On Route 5 you'll see tents now right and you know where the Dunkin' Donuts is, that parking lot, there is a social security and sometimes there is like three tents of people wanting to live there. Okay. That's got to be a climate issue, right?

I don't know.

Environmental, climate. But anyway... but again I thank you for all your good work. I know it's not easy to do.

>>**GREGORY MATHIS:** I signed up. My name is Gregory Mathis and I am representing both Ft. Washington Forest Neighborhood Association and my church in Oxon Hill. Probe Francis requested each parish to develop a 5-year plan to help reduce local climate impact and may verifiable progress. Exactly what you talked about in here.

And so this is really neat and my neighborhood association wants -- is in the process of doing a 5-year plan also. A lot of it being water mitigation issues and then replacing dead trees with new trees.

I have also participated in several of the CAP Zoom meetings and I receive your e-mails, so thank you.

There were -- during these Zoom meetings, I heard three types of concerns and I want to -- I'll follow this up with an e-mail, but I heard three types of concerns. One concern building roof integrity before installing solar panels on my home, business, or apartment.

The county has inspectors who come in if I'm going to put a new deck in, they are going to inspect the post and the concrete work. The recommendation I heard from at the Zoom meetings was that the county hire honest broker experts to inspect building roofs before people put on solar panels. In other words, is my, you know, is my roof sturdy enough to handle all of this stuff or my apartment or my flat roof?

So that was one.

So in other words hire experts to be honest brokers not just rely on a company who's going to put on solar panels.

And I know there's very good companies and my good friend here represents one of those companies, and they are great, but I just think the county needs to hire experts that we can rely on, who can come out and inspect it before somebody puts on a \$10,000, you know, solar panel.

Second issue, I know the county has resources available to help within environmental improvements and the concern is if we invite your experts to help reduce storm water run-off and erosion at our church hypothetically, my pastor doesn't want your office to tell us, again, hypothetically, that our lighting system in the parking lot is no longer up to code and we have to spend \$10,000 on the lighting before you'll help us with the environmental thing. We had an experience like this. We put in a new bathroom in one part of the building and way in another part of the building our kitchen is no -- you know, the



grease pit is no longer up to code. It was when we installed it 15 years ago but before they would improve the bathroom, we had to improve the kitchen. So in other words I'm just letting you know that if we asked for help, if people -- if businesses asked for help and want to install run-offs, how do we improve the run-off system, install rain water gardens, improve this and this and this, please don't tell us there are parking lots that are no longer up to code. So it's just a concern, okay, that people expressed.

And the last one I want to talk about is as we install renewable energy and food projects, let us take caution and not be the Daniel Snyders of Prince George's County.

In other words, don't cut down 100-foot trees and replace them with 10-foot trees. This was -- again, this was a concern, you know, as people are installing all these things, you know, you need to take -- you know, there is a balance between, you know, cutting down the trees, 100-foot trees so that I have solar panel. That's feeding, you know, that's defeating your purposes. People need to do that. We understand that. But just use, you know, help with these ideas.

So that's what goes back to kind of the honest broker person. Who can we rely on, you know, who's not taking a salary from something, you know, and again using the concrete posts -- I mean, the deck posts as an example. Those are just three things. I'll follow this up with an e-mail. Thank you.

>>**TORIO PERRY:** My name is Torio Perry. I kind of said the civic association and my company solar industries incorporated. Hearing my friend about getting Prince George's County inspector, all company doing, installing solar panel when the resident would like to have solar panel, we inspect the roof through a sensing device we know where the problem, where the heat escapes. So when we do that, we talk to the insurance replace the roof. Then we send a request to Prince George's County and they will inspect. We just don't put solar. No. The county inspects, so that's a thing --

>>**MONIQUE SCOTT HEARN:** Hi. My name is Monique Scott Hearn. I'm an instructional lead teacher and science teacher here at Surrattsville and we are trying to become a green school, so we're starting the application process and one of the things of course we need is some kind of community interaction as part of our application.

The children of course are the future. They are the ones that's going to be affected by the things that we are trying to fight now, so I wondered if the Department of Environmental Services -- Department of Environment had some kind of youth outreach, some kind of I don't know, internship or some kind of field trip. Something that we could get our students involved in?

I got like fliers so I'm thinking maybe I'll put together a little questionnaire and have them, I don't know, do a skit about different things. I'm just trying to, you know, flying off the top of my head but I didn't know if something was already -- usual something is already developed and didn't want to recreate the wheel so that was my question because we would like some support and something about some funds and that would be great. We have already started a garden. We have our recycling. I want to start a program called take your top off. They're not real happy about my title. But I'm concerned about the amount of water trapped in water bottles. People don't think about it. We have a finite amount of water on this planet. They came by and took my ice and through it in a plastic bag and I'm like no, don't trap this water and threw the ice cubes on the ground and get evaporated so that's my personal concern and I want to start a campaign here so if I can get some more information and find out --

>**UNK:** You may want to get the middle schools involved in this also.

>**UNK:** That would definitely be a next step to take the high school students down and they would love that. Middle schoolers love to see high school students come to my school but we have

to get started here first... I didn't know about this meeting until I was on the way to my car and I saw the sign so that's another thing, like the other day we had a COVID clinic here and nobody knew that the teachers could come here and get boosters. Well, they used our space and no one advertised to our community, our school community what's actually happening. Is it on the website somewhere but we don't know right here what's going on in our school until we... you saw I came in, I'm like all right shoot, I already my mask off, let me get another mask to come in here but this is important. It's very important honestly. And the trash like you were talking about, my husband cleans up our street. That's his exercise, clean up our street once a month and he tries to get some of the young people in the neighborhood to come out. It used to be that prisoners used to do all the cleans but or, you know, because he used to pick them up from the jail and then they would clean and then you don't see that too much anymore. I don't know why. But these young people are sitting around doing much of nothing as possible and I don't see why we can't get them mobilized, you know.

>UNK: They can earn school credit too.

>UNK: Yeah. Community service. Community service credit.

>UNK: The Schmidt Center, Donald Bell.

>UNK: I already have them talking to their parents because their parents were around when a lot of all this stuff wasn't happening. Like Upper Marlboro never used to flood. Because they are not around long enough to see the change so I had them interview their parents and say what's happening now that wasn't happening when you were in high school and the flooding in Upper Marlboro wasn't --

>>So you asked a really important question, what is climate change or climate action?

>>COUNTY: *Discussion on the environment broadly, climate hazards, recent extreme weather events around the Country, balancing doom and gloom and positive opportunities, and brainstorming solutions to traffic.*

>>UNK: Right now there is a new presidential going into that's a huge, huge structure. A lot of our structures are -- we have got an east runway that was built in 1960s and the jets that are protecting the capitol from idiots that want to fly and bomb the White House and whatever, the jets take off.

>Just so you all know we all hear them, see, hear.

>Climate action is a huge, important part of our thought process and if you don't believe me, just go on Google and look up secretary defense's comments on climate change and how it's...

>The number one problem you're going to be facing in the next 30 years, access to palatable water.

>But I have got about 10 comments that I have written so I'll...

>I think it speaks volume that the military and basically this is like the number one threat into stability which is really --

>He feels that the number one issue in the world would be access to palatable water and that's tied to a whole lot of things but --

I'm going to end by saying there is a great book called limit to growth if anybody's not heard of it you should read it. It was written in 1972 by four scientists who were commissioned by a group of major businessmen across the globe. Basically it happened during the field crisis in the early 1970s and they said hey what is going to happen in the next 30, 40, 50, 60, 100 years?

So these scientists got together and basically doom and good and said by 2036, just around the corner, 2036 we are going to experience a global economic melt down unless we start putting new policies in place an that was in 1972.

And we have watched all of those things come to past.

What was the issue in the '70s. It was oil. But they looked at a whole variety of things so there is a really cool draft so they looked at birthrates, death rates, economics, war, foods, a whole bunch of different things and they basically took a look at the current use in 1972 of all the resources in the world and how they were going to end up based upon the usage and they looked at this for about two or three years and published it and it's just amazing and they did update it in the mid 2000s and said we recommended 2036 some of these issues we have identified that were going to happen in 2036, they have already happened before 2000 so policies that were supposed to be put in place were not and that's one of the reasons why we are experiencing extreme weather events, food shortages, increased population, migration and diversity in foods and issues because those policies weren't put into place. Any way, read the book. You can get it on Amazon.

## **CAP 30-Day Public Comment Period In-Person Meeting (Laurel): November 18, 2021 Abridged Transcript**

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**>>ANDREA CROOMS:** *Welcome, background on the County's Climate Action Plan (CAP) development process, review of the County's commitment to leadership and transformational change, and goal of inclusive and equitable implementation.*

**>>DAWN HAWKINS-NIXON:** *Summary of CAP and highlights from the Plan. Presentation included County's greenhouse gas emissions, climate hazards and impacts, CAP guiding principles, focus on just and equitable implementation, strategies, and recommendations for taking action to achieve a low-carbon resilient Prince George's County.*

**>>JAMES McDOWELL:** This is a question. When you were mentioning about the developers, my question is as you're tracking them, are you also tracking the amount of green space that's remaining to also protect our wildlife as well, preserve that?

**>DAWN HAWKINS NIXON:** *Development goes through a review process by multiple agencies, including Park and Planning. While this agency assess the existing tree cover and other critical green spaces, and ensures compliance with requirements, tracking can be improved.*

**>JAMES McDOWELL:** Thank you. I asked because I know that the -- many developers have run out of space in the D.C. area and they are now going into Prince George's County because we have more space, but they are overdeveloped in these areas and that's why I'm asking to make sure we are tracking to preserve what we have here while we're still developing. For the record, James McDowell, Adelphi, Maryland.

**>>JONATHAN HAIGHT:** I have a question. My name is Jonathan Haight and I live in Laurel, Maryland. And I'm here as part of the group for Laurel for the Patuxent and the references to smart growth and Haight is spelled H-A-I-G-H-T. The reference to smart growth, smart growth means different things to different people and in large measures to the banks it means dense clusters of tall buildings with one and two-car garages on the first floor. To me smart growth means something like the City of Laurel, which has existed since before the automobile. So it is walkable. It is relatively dense. Although it's single family homes, there are apartments going up. I would say the city is an example of what I would call smart growth. Main stream is walkable. Since the crash in 2008, we have lost dozens of businesses and on behalf of the city, does the county intend to fund or to -- well, fund or otherwise support the return of businesses to, for example, Laurel Main Street, but not necessarily to Laurel. Bowie is a similar situation, Upper Marlboro, all these pre-automobile towns and cities across the county are in the same boat. Does that enter into smart growth?

**>ANDREA L. CROOMS:** *The CAP is focused on growth around transit hubs and opportunities to promote mode shifts.*

**>UNK:** I just wanted to add, thank you for bringing up smart growth. Also to reduce the carbon footprint and the amount of time that we're traveling in cars and vehicles also we have to think about positioning of where we are putting certain things, in certain communities. Like for instance in the Adelphi area, the Hyattsville area, like we don't have a senior citizens place like at a home like this there. We also don't have a community pool for our senior citizens to go and exercise. They have to come into Laurel. So that means more travel, which they can't do by bike because they have to go across the highway to get there. And also even the community center...we don't have the size, the footprint to service the amount of students that we have in

that area. They have to travel once again to Laurel or travel to Upper Marlboro for events because when we're talking about smart growth, we are not thinking about those areas and their need for those areas, so I mentioned three, you know, for us that's in that area that we don't have so it forces us to have to get to our automobiles versus walking or biking there because we have to travel across highways to get there and I think that's something that should be considered when we're talking about smart growth, is looking at those areas and meeting with those residents to find out what their needs are.

>Hear-hear.

>Hear-hear, yes.

>>**UMB STUDENT UNK:** State my name first, right? I'm also a UMB student, grad student of the School of Public Policy and my question is kind of related to what the young man over there was saying in regards to the placement of community centers and all the other stuff in regards to equity. So I greatly appreciate your equity lens about the plan and I think that that is a process of creating a cleaner county and environmental justice is crucial to alleviating a lot of the climate issues that we see in this county and my question is related to what levers of accountability are placed to ensure that equity is truly met because we often hear about equity but once the processes begin, it quickly gets put to the back burner.

>>**STOSH COMISIAK:** I'm Scosc from Laurel, from Patuxent and I'm wondering if the plan includes more permeable surface, streets, allies. Right now there is a meeting going on in Laurel about the allies and some resistance to putting permeable surfaces in there. Most people would like to see it permeable because of the amount of wood it accumulates. Right now even with the walk-around, I can say I live on the other side of the street from Old Town and it's really rough, especially in the winter that causes the street to go just go over to the walkable part especially in this dark time of the year. We have to look at the way we flow traffic and all that sort of stuff. That has to be part of the Climate Action Plan I believe.

>**UNK:** I would say one of the things I've -- I've seen them like where there were areas where the street or the trail especially along the Laurel Trail along the Patuxent that they went and just resurfaced it with impermeable surface and then they could have just taken that section and made a permeable section and it would have been a little small step to both of the areas where they fixed it, they were flood areas. They could have made it so that drains. They didn't. So and that's the thing. The way to do it is to replace some of the broken parts with permeable parts and drainage and it's a step by step.

>>**BYRON:** My name is Byron. I'm from Laurel. I have a question. So this plan by the way is wonderful. What I have read of it is a long plan and I haven't gotten all the way through it yet. Where do you see the next steps?

So the end of this month is the end of the period, you, I guess, turn it into county council or the people who ask for it and then at what point in time you have to start getting buy-in from your own group, the county council, the funders and all of the other people in the county. How do you see that going forth?

What do you believe is the mechanism to make that happen, other than meetings like this which I'm very disappointed and I think this is more important than 20 people and thank you for taking your time, but anyway, so the question is how do you see that going forward?

>>**ANDREA L. CROOMS:** *The County Council will be provided the draft CAP as is, a supplemental report summarizing public feedback, and a package of all public feedback by January 15th, 2022. The Council will be responsible for determining how to advance the draft CAP and address the public feedback. This will be in the height of the beginnings of the budgetary process and one would*

*hope that any actions will be considered through the budgetary process and each agency would look at it and identify where they could meet things in the plan.*

**>BYRON:** My only concern was as the plan is out, this type of plan, not in this detail, has been done before, and it's been blatantly ignored by leadership and the rest of the county and it's time and you're right that it's time and I was just wondering if there were things that were looked at to say okay what went wrong the other times and how do we make sure this doesn't go wrong again. That was my question.

**>>LAURA:** Hi. My name is Laura and I would like to piggyback on the conversation that has just started. I agree I wanted to know how we were going to implement this plan and what teeth was it going to have and maybe the solution is to get with Park and Planning and sit down with them and talk about their plan process and green infrastructure plan process and see if that can't be tied together and make this an adopted and embraced plan by the community.

I work on the managed lane study and also the Maglin Train, reviewing impacts. I was little surprised how little teeth like the priority reservation area in Prince George's County really had to deter these types of aggressive transportation impacts in Prince George's County. So much so that even the Wood Lawn Conservation Board knows doesn't provide teeth to put trees back in Prince George's County. That with the managed lanes they looked at mitigating in Anne Arundel county and in other areas, and so I would like to see this plan tie to the county's development infrastructure so that it can be implemented and it can be acted on and it can have successful impacts.

I also wanted to bring up the use of trails. The Park and Planning Commission has a great trail system and what it is lacking are those stairs that go into the private property. I think with the oncoming of environmental awareness, new developments are going to provide those trails first. But where we get lost is the equity into those older established communities. How do we get those vital links where there is not a lot of land left to tie into the existing trail system. So I do challenge the group to be thinking outside the box and looking at ways to take advantage of some of the infrastructure that exist in the county today and strengthening it to provide environmental impact and to provide transportation alternatives, multimodal transportation alternatives. Thank you.

**>>STOSH COMISIAK:** Me again. My name is Stosh, S-T-O-S-H incidentally and I've been hearing on some of the environmental groups about especially where they are concerned about the plants and the dirty power plants and I'm wondering if there is any plan to remove them and to kind of encourage alternative power to replace them as well as, you know, for example maybe community-based solar where you take a town like Laurel or any of the other towns that they start like sharing solar power energy amongst the community. There is a lot of things you can do. Is there anything like that included in the plan to look at it?

**>ANDREA L. CROOMS:** *Yes, it addresses community solar in the plan, community choice aggregation, and microgrids.*

**>>TOM:** My name is Tom. I'm just curious how much -- I don't envy the job that you have to do because I'm sure you have to do a lot of balancing of all the different plans and people have a lot of good suggestions and things tonight about all the different kinds of things that are affected when you talk about climate change and about things being in different parts of the county, that sort of thing. But I'm just wondering how much resistance you have encountered?

There is a lot of information out there and a lot of people don't even know that they are misinformed and I'm wondering how much that impacts what you do and in terms of developing this plan and trying

to get it moving forward, especially in the business community. Have you encountered -- I mean, obviously we don't live in an area where it's as bad as some parts but there is still people that don't really understand this problem and how serious it is.

**>ANDREA L. CROOMS:** *focusing around business is one way to let folks know that there is opportunities in the County focusing on the priorities of the community not just environmentalism.*

**>>LAURA CONNOLLY:** This is Laura Connolly and I would like to suggest that similarly to the landscape manual in Prince George's County that require certain amount of buffer and shade trees and houses, new development, certain percentage has to be solar or certain amount of homes have to have plugs for electric cars that we suggest that these new developments retool to allow this green technology to start to build and that we start to create those links and define how development is going to occur even further in Prince George's County.

**>>UNK:** Yeah. One more question is in regards to -- so like throughout the process of creating this plan, were there any like exemplars within the county like Takoma Park, they are pretty good with sustainability so is there any exemplars that you can tell county that this has done this versus this has done this within our plan and how it's helped them and the results of this. So is there anything in the plan like that?

**>ANDREA L. CROOMS:** *Yes, within the plan itself there is call-out boxes highlighting case studies and current efforts. that are highlighted just that.*

**>>DOUG BOWLS:** Hi. My name is Doug Bowls and I live in Comar Manor, Maryland and I'm also a councilmember in that town, and I want to ask you to please come to our community and continue any discussions possible. How can I be of as much support as possible to move this forward aside from calling my councilmember who I'm pretty sure is on the side of this plan. Our developers are interested in regressive nongreen development. They are trying to push through gas station developments. 200 feet from the river. Half our town is in a flood plain. How can we get moneys to those citizens and carrot and incentivize in advance them taking some of their heart surface cover which they are in love with away and to get them the money in advance because when you're in a lower-income community, it's very difficult to say, oh, well, you should take this up and it's going to cost youed 2500 and if you do, then we'll give you back \$350 but you have to apply for this program and then we'll -- so how do we come into those citizens and say you're in the 100-year flood plain, you are contributing to run off on your neighbors, your next door river, the levee system is not sufficient anymore, the storm drains aren't sufficient anymore. Here is X amount of dollars, go do this and report back to us receipts, et cetera. Is there a way to reverse that for lower-income communities so that instead of asking them to outlay the cash, you outlay the cash and then they report back to you because -- and we have a green street plan. We just installed one intersection of water permble pavers. Our budget is 1.4 million and it was \$110,000 for one intersection and it had to be reduced. So to implement grand plan would be millions of dollars which would be multiple years of our budget, so I'm sitting here and I'm thinking awful thoughts like how do we get the government to be the big bad government and come in and say you're in the 100-year flood plain, you can't do this. You have to put this in and we'll fund it for you because you're within 200 yards of the river. Two years ago when we had the 6-inch rain, the bottom of our town looked like it did in 1933, our houses were floating and a lot of that was because our storm drains are insufficient. They are not cleaned out. I don't know. I feel this incredible pressure because the town is so close to the river and it's not -- I don't think it's good enough to say we'll give you back a percentage of your expenditure after you do it so I'll just throw it -- I'll leave it at that.

**>>JIM:** My name is Jim. I live in Laurel. I don't know if it's efficient I heard that you're raising property

taxes 10%. Is that true?

>**ANDREA L. CROOMS:** My understanding is that there is not anything out there to try to raise property taxes. But that is –

>**JIM:** But that's usually how they pay for all these wonderful projects or a chunk of it.

>**ANDREA L. CROOMS:** Taxes are a major way of paying for infrastructure. DoE has been charged with finding other funds including federal money, partnering, and leveraging capital.

>**JIM:** Even the feds get money from us in taxes too so we just get it from different...

>**ANDREA L. CROOMS:** Right. But there is a lot more businesses -- nationally than there is just in Prince George's, so it's the money that flows through the economy theoretically -- that's a little too deep on the politics. I'm going to dance away from that question.

>**JIM:** But when we're trying to think about that question, where is the money, you have to compare cost of doing something, the cost of doing nothing and if we don't address these problems now by investment, we're going to have way, way greater expenses later trying to clean up the mess when things fall apart.

>But even solar or going green causes a lot of pollution that makes greener nicer. It doesn't always work.

>It's a very difficult problem but... we need all that funding you were talking about and we need to get going.

>>**JAMES McDOWELL:** Hi. James McDowell. When we talk about maintaining and servicing the current infrastructure, even those that were deemed green maybe five, seven years ago, has there been any retrospective look at whether those infrastructures need to be demolished and the cost-effective way versus building a more deficient structure is now? Which one is more cost effective, you know what I'm saying?

>**ANDREA L. CROOMS:** I don't think we really dive into that in the plan but I absolutely agree with you that, yes, there was a really great presentation last night. I was on a listening session in South County from the Department of Public Works this Charles County about looking at their coal and deciding whether dug up and replace them or place a new liner in them and certainly the conversation about as we're moving towards nature-based solutions, wouldn't it be better to leave a tree there and we don't need this and so I think those conversations are out there but I think that comment is relevant to some of the things we talk about in the plan.

>**JAMES McDOWELL:** And then secondly, if something may be more cost effective to demolishing than rebuilding a greater facility, is that something that could be tapped into the new infrastructure bill that was passed to ease the burden on Prince George's County?

>>**STOSH COMISIAC:** I have one comment, Stosh Comisiac. If we don't do anything no matter how expensive or how hard it is for us to do, our children are going to deal with this and we already see parts. World where they are experiencing heat over 120 degrees at 100% humidity and dying just being there because they are literally drowning because they can't sweat, they can't do anything. If we don't do anything now, we talk about cost, price, cost of avoiding millions of deaths, another pandemic, look how much this pandemic cost us and the more we get to climate heating up, the more of these diseases, costs should be almost no issue. We got to just start doing it. And if everybody starts putting in trees in their property and planting nice rain gardens and pollinator gardens and stuff like that and doing their best to limit their own need for polluting stuff, trash, stuff like that, is a good start.

>>**UNK:** I think one thing is -- so your field may be, you're a musician but you care about this issue but you don't know what the answer is, right?



Like I'm deeply passionate about this, but do I go out and get a Tesla, to this point, it's green is your point. It's green. And I'm not being antiscience here. I'm saying like you're lost because what is the answer?

They told us -- when I say "they," I don't mean to be conspiratory, they told us solar panels and they come to your home and say the sun doesn't shine right on your home. At the federal level they passed the infrastructure bill. That's -- I was like infrastructure isn't going to solve this problem right now. We are talking 20 years down the line. So what do you say to someone like myself honestly deeply care about this issue, I'm passionate about a piece of paper if I'm passionate about...what do I need to know to help you help us? Sorry to be long winded with this.

**>ANDREA L. CROOMS:** *personal view, it is the role of government to help residents and communities navigate these issues.*