



## Roanoke County 200 Plan: 2021 Community Meeting Summary

Roanoke County Public Schools Student Advisory Council

Roanoke County Public Schools Administration Building – Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Attendee Count: 37 (26 in-person/11 virtual)

Staff present:

Planning	Long Range	Transportation
Philip Thompson	Bailey Howard-DuBois Alex Jones Cecile Newcomb	Megan Cronise

### Housing/Lifestyle

Meeting Exercise: Visual Preference Survey and Comments

Staff summary: When groups of students first approached this exercise, they quickly picked choices that were either familiar (similar to where they have grown up) or those that looked "cool" or fun. When prompted to give reasons for their choices they gave more careful thought and engaged in conversation about what types of housing and communities they might want to live in when they are about 30 years old. Many of them are concerned about environmental damage and changes and want to live in places that have close community facilities and are environmentally responsible. Some students like living in the country with lots of space and neighbors farther away. Quite a few students want to see the suburban areas modernized and redeveloped, while preserving the rural areas.

#### Student Comments:

- I like this trendy house, it looks like a young family house.
- I like a small neighborhood; not too many people.
- This trendy home looks cool, futuristic, snazzy.
- Suburbs are classic because they work.
- The trendy home looks cool.
- The eco-friendly development looks prettiest.
- I want to live in the country so I do not have to interact with people.
- The tiny home is easier; you just have what you need and it is less expensive.
- I live on a farm and like the country.
- I have always lived in neighborhoods, so I'm comfortable there.
- I want to live in a place that's best for the environment, like a sustainable development.
- An environmentally responsible neighborhood is very important to me.
- We need to fix the areas that are developed now and leave the country as it is. Make the suburban areas more modern to appeal to people moving here.
- The rural areas should be preserved and other areas developed.
- I want to live in townhomes; I like everybody being close.
- The County and City should plan the future together.



### Meeting Exercise: Place sticker on top choice.

*What kind of place do you want to live?*

Results:

- Classic Suburbs (7 votes)
- Large Lot Rural (7 votes)
- Eco-Friendly Redevelopment (4 votes)
- Green Building/Community (4 votes)
- Village Cluster (1 vote)
- Urban Downtown (0 votes)

*What kind of home do you want to live in?*

Results:

- Trendier Single-Family Home (16 votes)
- Trendy Townhome (4 votes)
- Tiny Home (3 votes)
- Apartment (0 votes)
- Condominium (0 votes)
- Mixed Use Apartment (0 votes)

A slide titled 'Your Community Your Voice' featuring a 'Housing/Lifestyle' section. It contains two main sections: 'What kind of place do you want to live?' and 'What kind of home do you want to live in?'. Each section is accompanied by a title, a small description, and a photograph. Red dots are placed on the photographs to indicate preferences. The 'What kind of place' section includes: 'Green Building/Community' (image of a modern building with green walls), 'Classic Suburbs' (image of a residential street with houses), 'Urban Downtown' (image of a city skyline), 'Large Lot Rural' (image of a rural road with a fence), 'Eco-friendly Redevelopment' (image of a modern building with people), and 'Village Cluster' (image of a row of colorful houses). The 'What kind of home' section includes: 'Apartment' (image of an apartment building), 'Condominium' (image of a condominium building), 'Mixed Use Apartment' (image of a modern apartment building), 'Trendier Single Family Home' (image of a modern house), and 'Tiny Home' (image of a small, rustic house).

**Housing/Lifestyle**

**What kind of place do you want to live?**

- Green Building/Community
- Classic Suburbs
- Urban Downtown
- Large Lot Rural
- Eco-friendly Redevelopment
- Village Cluster

**What kind of home do you want to live in?**

- Apartment
- Condominium
- Mixed Use Apartment
- Trendier Single Family Home
- Tiny Home

### **Transportation**

#### Meeting Exercise: Visual Preference Survey and Comments:

Staff summary: Students want to see electric cars become more common in the Roanoke Valley and could see that becoming their main use of transportation. Students also are interested in the investments in our pedestrian and bicycle accommodations,



both on-street and off-street. Students would like to see these projects enhance their existing neighborhoods and in the revitalized commercial corridors.

#### Student comments:

- There should be light rail connecting Downtown Roanoke, Downtown Salem and the airport.

#### Meeting Exercise: Place sticker on top choice.

Mode – How do you want to get around Roanoke?

Results:

- Personal Car and/or Electric Car (15 votes)
- Walking (3 votes)
- Electric Bicycle (2 votes)
- Electric Vehicle Takeoff & Landing (eVTOL) Aircraft (1 vote)
- Electric Scooter (1 vote)
- Trolley, Bus, and/or Smart Shuttle (1 vote)

Facilities – What type of infrastructure would you use?

Results:

- Electric Car Chargers (9 votes)
- Sidewalk (8 votes)
- Natural Surface Trails (5 votes)
- Bike Lanes (1 vote)
- Shared Use Paths/Greenways (1 vote)
- Transportation Hub – Amtrak & Bus Stations (0 votes)

**Your Community Your Voice**

**Transportation**

**Mode – How do you want to get around Roanoke?**

- 2 Electric Bicycle
- 3 Walking
- 1 Electric Scooter
- 6 Personal Car and/or Electric Car
- 5 Electric Vertical Takeoff & Landing (eVTOL) Aircraft
- 9 Trolley, Bus, and/or Smart Shuttle

**Facilities – What type of infrastructure would you use?**

- 1 Bike Lanes
- 2 Sidewalk
- 4 Electric Car Chargers
- 5 Shared Use Paths/Greenways
- 7 Natural Surface Trails
- 8 Transportation Hub (Amtrak & Bus Stations)



## Entertainment/Recreation

Meeting Exercise: Visual Preference Survey and comments.

Staff summary: Students want to see a variety of chain stores and restaurants that we currently do not have in the region that can be found in Charlottesville, Charlotte, Richmond, Northern Virginia, etc. Students like the outdoor amenities in the Roanoke Valley, but would like to see more outdoor recreation options closer to where they live and not just in Explore Park and Green Ridge Recreation Center, especially those students who cannot drive yet.

Student comments:

- Trader Joes
- Cheesecake Factory
- Blaze Pizza
- Noodles & Co.
- Make Tanglewood an actual shopping mall
- Make Keagy Village an actual shopping mall
- Urban Outfitters
- PF Changs
- Costco
- Publix
- Go carts, laser tag, top golf, Raising Cains
- Six Flags Water Park
- More IMAX and drive-ins
- Joe's Crab Shack
- Old Chicago
- Mall in the Cave Spring area
- Outdoor Malls like Charlottesville
- Launching Pad
- Wegmans

Meeting Exercise: Place sticker on top choice.

*What do you want to do for fun?*

Results:

- Indoor Recreation – Ex. TopGolf (10 votes)
- Concert Venue (5.5 votes)
- Town Center Retail/Restaurants (5 votes)
- Café Dining (2 votes)
- Music Club/Dance Venue (1 vote)
- Adult Arcade – Ex. Dave & Busters (0.5 vote)

*What kind of outdoor recreation might you enjoy?*

Results:

- Mountain Hiking/Trails (7 votes)
- Watersports (7 votes)
- Rocking Climbing (5 votes)



Hunting and Fishing (2 votes)  
 Mountain Biking (1.5 votes)  
 Greenways (1 vote)

**Your Community Your Voice**

**Entertainment/Recreation**

**What do you want to do for fun?**

**Indoor Recreation - Ex: TopGolf**

**Greenways**

**Mountain Hiking Trails**

**Adult Arcade - Ex: Dave & Busters**

**Concert Venue**

**Mountain Biking**

**Watersports**

**Music Club/Dance Venue**

**Town Center Retail/Restaurants**

**Rock Climbing**

**Hunting and Fishing**

**200 ROANOKE COUNTY 200 Year Plan**

## Student Advisory Council Online Survey

Do you plan to leave the Roanoke Valley after high school?

Yes: 12

No: 2

Maybe: 8

If yes or maybe, why? Please check all answers that are true:

18: To go to college/university/community college

5: To take a job elsewhere

8: I just want to go somewhere new

7: I want to see more of the world

7: What I want to do isn't available here, which is: "keeping up my business"

Do you plan to continue your education after high school? If so, where?

0: Hollins University

4: Roanoke College

1: Virginia Western Community College

9: Virginia Tech

2: Radford University



- 0: Radford University Carilion Nursing
- 8: Another School in Virginia: Lynchburg, Emory & Henry, UVA (4) , JMU (2)
- 5: A school outside of Virginia: John Hopkins, UNC, BYU, Alabama, Barton
- 7: Yes, but I'm not sure where
- 0: I'm not sure if I will continue my education
- 0: No, I do not plan to continue my education

Do you plan to go straight into the workforce after high school?

- 0: Yes, I would like to work as a \_\_\_\_\_ in the Roanoke Valley
- 1: Yes, I would like to work as a \_\_\_\_\_ outside of the area (psychiatrist)
- 20: No, I do not plan to go into the workforce straight after high school

If you plan to move away after high school, do you think you'll ever move back?

- Yes: 10
- No: 7
- Other: 3
- Maybe: 1

Why or why not? Please check all answers that are true:

- 17: I have family here
- 0: I don't have family here
- 5: There are jobs here that I'm interested in
- 4: There are not jobs that I'm interested in
- 7: I love this area
- 2: I want to raise my own family here
- 9: I think the Roanoke Valley will be a good place to live in the future
- 2: I do not think the Roanoke Valley will be a good place to live in the future "for my future kids (not that fun)
- 3: I don't have any reason to move back here
- 2: Other: "It's very small and nothing is here it feels like" and "Maybe"

If you could bring in one new thing to the Roanoke Valley, what would it be and why?

- "A Bass Pro Shop store because I love them"
- "give it a Grandin feel"
- "I would bring more exciting attractions. I feel like there isn't a lot of things to do so more festivals/fairs/etc. would help the Roanoke Valley."
- " I would bring horses to the Roanoke Valley. The Kentucky Derby was always a highlight to the year."
- "more developed Tanglewood with fun stores & necessary stores (Trader Joes) (Lazer tag)"
- "more public places for the youth, top golf, dave n busters, laser tag, etc. It stinks having to drive out far out to have fun with friends and family."
- "Better public and road safety"
- "Theme park/Six Flags"
- "I don't know"
- "I would bring Topgolf because I think it would bring in a lot of money"



"I like Roanoke the way it is. I believe it is not very crowded, but has the right amount of people. I really do not like traffic."

"A good, big mall for things to do and it would also create jobs and income."

"Different restaurants"

"I would bring more housing."

"Better parks because out parks right now our kind of small"

"More sidewalks"

"A better mall, Ivy League school, more sidewalks"

"Costco, Cheesecake Factory, New sidewalks"

"Sidewalks and guardrails"

"Community diversity center. Programs for inclusion, job training for disabled population, etc."

"Bring FFA and 4H to Roanoke County Schools"

What grade are you?

12<sup>th</sup>: 2

11<sup>th</sup>: 5

10<sup>th</sup>: 6

9<sup>th</sup>: 4

8<sup>th</sup>: 5

*Summary Approved: PGT*