What is this task force's mission? Why are we here? (4 groups)

- To find a road map, to be smart about growth and change
- We'll be here in 2030, and want a say in what it looks like
- What kind of a county will it be?
- Create a vision for the next twenty years.

What are the strengths and weaknesses of Carroll County, from your perspective as someone who lives/works here? *(This is an internal assessment completed by four small groups. The number beside an item indicates how many of the four groups mentioned it in their discussion.)*

Strengths	Weaknesses
- Solid educational base, opportunities at all levels (schools, college, library system) (4) - Volunteerism (3) - Generosity (3) - Location (3) - Outside Beltway, yet close to Baltimore, DC, York, Harrisburg - Strong sense of community (3) - The people, and their willingness to come together - Services for aging, disabled, etc.—including strong nonprofit community (3) - Arts/Cultural/historic opportunities (2) - Recreational opportunities (2) - Low crime rate (2) - Beautiful—open space/ag preservation (2) - Healthcare system focused on wellness in community (2) - We say, "What if?" rather than, "We can't" - Great integrity and partnerships - Size, choice of life - Previous planning strong	- Lack of infrastructure (4) - Especially highway congestion and limited mobility - No public transportation - Transportation system isolates us - Need more of a business base, healthy industry, small business (3) - Lack of diversity (3) - Can we handle changing demographics? - Lack of appreciation for diversity - Because we're a bedroom community, less civic engagement (2) - Other infrastructure issues (3) - Lack of access to water resources - Communications—limited broadband - Lack of affordable housing - Technology—expectation of immediate gratification; social media - Competing priorities - Slow to change - Special and unique can mean insulated - County is neither rich nor poor, neither urban nor rural—so can be difficult to get targeted grant funding

• Strong work ethic • Sense of common mission • Common understanding of self • Cost-effective services • Active churches, faith-based organizations • Diverse, creative government, commissioner-based	• Appear unwelcoming • Government—no single decision-maker, no focus • Financial issues, current and future • Local workforce—not trained to attract new business? (Could be a spiral) • Declining volunteerism

What are some external trends and forces that may affect Carroll County in the next twenty years? (Given that no one owns a crystal ball, and we don't know what we don't know…think as far ahead as you can.)

We used the STEEEP model to think about trends in these areas:
Social and demographic
Technology
Education
Environment
Economy
Politics and government

Top Trends (those chosen most often by group members)

9 =   Will need increased infrastructure for increasing population
7 =   Will have the ability to engage youth positively
6 =   Increasing need for community engagement
5/6 = Local leadership structure and focus
          Creating wealth, job creation, attracting new industry
4 =   Increased broadband access
          Increasing need to prepare students and workers to compete in a
          world economy—for jobs that don't exist yet

Each group chose one external trend or force that represented an important challenge or opportunity for Carroll County. Their assignment was to elaborate on the challenges (weaknesses) or opportunities they saw.

Youth and Community Engagement	Community Engagement

• Opportunity to engage them in activities like volunteerism and mentorship to expand their understanding
• Need outreach to create a larger community vision for the future—civic responsibility
• Personal engagement is a challenge
	• How older adults can be used as a resource
	    o Senior Corps
	    o Volunteer Centers
	    o Personal invitation
	• How youth can be used as a community resource
	    o Build in responsibility to engage
	    o Start to develop social contract from birth
	    o Student focus group?
	• Proactive outreach to community
	• Quality of life one of the benefits of engagement
	• Engaged citizens have an expectation to be informed
	• Make best use of volunteer skills and talents
	• Cost of using volunteers: liability, training and certification
	• Identify local initiatives to make a difference on global/statewide/national issues
	• Idea of broader self. Modeling behavior we want to encourage
	• Decrease pushing responsibilities to others, take responsibility

Infrastructure	**Infrastructure** **Opportunities in Completing Broadband Network:**

• Everything is affected by infrastructure. All of these areas must be addressed as the county grows:
    o Water
    o Roads
    o Wastewater
    o Stormwater
    o Affordable housing
    o Final broadband connections
• Have to prioritize the needs, although
	• Telecommuting workspace
	• BRAC, proximity to Ft. Meade, metro DC and Baltimore
	    o Education/Work partnerships with intelligence community, federal gov't possible
	• Entrepreneurship
	• Education/technology trade opportunities

previous planning has addressed some of the essentials already • All need to agree on the growth areas! • Local leadership essentially creates a domino effect where that makes everything happen	• Video streaming government meetings to increase engagement (new media = youth-oriented) **<u>Challenges to Infrastructure</u>** • Limited water • Limited sewer • Trash/waste disposal