

Proposed traffic changes studied

By **Steve Vied, Messenger-Inquirer**

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Converting Second Street -- U.S. 60 -- to two-way traffic isn't just a possibility, it's p consultants studying downtown Owensboro traffic are concerned.

"That's been a given for us. We're not re-evaluating that," Tom Creasey of the Lexington Commission on Tuesday.

Fourth Street -- also U.S. 60 through downtown -- is recommended for two-way traffic Street in the core downtown area.

On the west side of the city, where Second and Fourth street now converge, a large,

The most significant change to downtown traffic being proposed by the highway experts Owensboro on what is now the U.S. 60 bypass, leaving Second and Fourth streets as

All of the above and more is contained in draft recommendations for traffic changes i gathered at the RiverPark Center to see and hear about the changes coming out of th

The City Commission would have to agree to any changes, as well as the state and fr

ENTRAN, the Lexington consulting firm hired to study ways to change downtown traffic achieve the objectives of the downtown master plan, hosted the meeting, along with Creasey, project manager for ENTRAN, provided the information to the City Commis

ENTRAN's presentation included computer simulation models to illustrate the propose by the Gateway Planning Group, says downtown streets need to support the vision fo amenable to walking, biking, transit and cars.

However, U.S. 60, a federal highway, runs through the middle of downtown and larg highway divided into a pair of one-way streets. About 6 percent of the 24,000 vehicle through downtown each day are large trucks.

Close to 50 people attended the public meeting, and one of the greatest concerns exp remains open to truck traffic, especially for farm trucks carrying loads to Owensboro

"I'm really concerned that after building this, there will be a sign that says 'No trucks don't want to be told I have to get on the (U.S. 60) bypass. It's a long way around. I continue to use Fourth Street for trucks."

City Engineer Joe Schepers said the city's plan is to prohibit large trucks from using S remain a truck route, even if a portion of it is converted to two-way traffic.

Creasey said Fourth Street is recommended to be two-way west of either Crittenden one-way eastbound on the east end of town.

More than half of the crowd, voting electronically, expressed strong concerns about t by the proposed changes. More than half were worried about the safety of pedestrian and an equal number were concerned about the ability of the public to become educa

Creasey has said the draft recommendations remain subject to tweaking but are in a done downtown to support the downtown master plan. Making Second and Fourth str around the city on what is now the U.S. 60 bypass would need federal approval, he s Street is a key part of the plan.

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