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Downtown study winding down

Last chance for public
input is Wednesday;
next step, City Council

BY ERIC WOOMER

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Wednesday is the last day to comment on a study that will help shape the future of getting around downtown Visalia.

TPG Consulting will present its final draft of a transportation

HOW TO ATTEND

The Downtown Transportation Study will be discussed at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Visalia Convention Center, 303 E. Acequia Ave. For more information, call TPG Consulting at 739-8072 or email tpgconsulting@tpgconsulting.net.

study that focused on downtown Visalia and possible closures of portions of Willis and West streets.

The Downtown Transportation Study analyzed traffic patterns, bike routes, walking routes, crosswalks and ways to improve each area.

The study looked at areas as far north as Murray Street, Ben Maddox Way to the east, Noble Avenue to the south and Hall Street to the west.

This is the third meeting seeking public input on the study and recommendations.

The first meeting, held in

March, provided an overview of a downtown Visalia transportation study and gathered initial feedback.

The second meeting provided a review of existing conditions for transit, including bikes, pedestrians and vehicles.

Participants were informed about how future development could affect downtown, including Kaweah Delta Medical Center's west expansion, the East Downtown plan and the Civic

Center Master Plan.

"Continued economic vitality in the downtown area is critical, blended with smart-growth principles," said Charles Clouse, a TPG consultant.

After Wednesday's meeting, the study and recommendations will be sent to Visalia's City Council for review and approval.

The study may reach the desk of council members as early as July 18, the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.