

## PLAN 636: Urban Transportation Planning

Fall 2021

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Office Hours: Thursday 3:30 to 4:30 via Zoom or by request

Course Meetings: Wednesday 4:00-6:30pm  
Gardner Room 308

### Course Description

In this studio style class students will learn the transportation planning process through the application of a corridor study using data from an actual study previously conducted. The project will unfold over the course of the semester and will include elements of public engagement, visioning, travel demand analysis, active transportation, and safety and operations. Students will be evaluated based on their ability to synthesize data and information into a compelling story about the corridor and to develop recommendations to support the vision for the corridor. This course will prepare you for leading or participating in transportation planning projects as a transportation planner in either the public or private sector. As a studio style course, attendance and participation are essential.

At the end of this course you will:

- Be familiar with the planning process and have the ability to conduct the steps in the process,
- Understand the importance of visioning and public/stakeholder engagement in transportation planning as well as tools and techniques for improving outcomes,
- Be familiar with the planning analysis tools used to support transportation planning,
- Develop the skills needed to manage a project workload and deliver a successful project.

### Course Requirements:

**Project:** The learning objectives of this course are achieved through the student's participation in a course project that takes the student through the steps of the transportation planning process and leads to the development two multimodal alternatives for the US 15-501 corridor between Durham and Chapel Hill in North Carolina. This project creates a frame work for synthesizing course materials and techniques in a learning environment that somewhat mirrors practical experience. The project is administered and graded as individual tasks that build on each other.

**Attendance:** Participation in the class and effective collaboration with your classmates is essential in this course. To facilitate a collegial learning environment and provide opportunities for hands-on learning of the planning process, attendance is mandatory.

### Grading

Assignments <sup>1</sup>	Format	% of Total
1. Visioning Workshop Design	Group	4
2. Goals and Objectives	Group	5
3. Measures of Effectiveness	Individual	8
4. Public Engagement Plan	Team	5
5. Corridor Needs Assessment	Team	25
6. Problem Statement	Group	5
7. Strategies	Individual	8
8. Screening of Strategies	Group	15
9. Evaluation of Alternatives	Group Teams	10
10. Mock Public Meeting	Group Teams	15

<sup>1</sup> See schedule of deliverables for due dates.

### Late Assignments

Any assignments turned in late will incur a penalty of a half-grade (letter graded assignments) or half the standard deviation (numeric graded assignments). For example, if a paper is a day late, the grade would change from a B to a B-. If the paper were two days late, the grade would change from a B to a C+.

### Readings

The *Transportation Planning Process Briefing Book* (USDOT) and *NCHRP 435* form the foundation for this course. Additional readings supporting each session may be assigned.

### Honor Code

The UNC Honor Code states: "It shall be the responsibility of every student at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to obey and to support the enforcement of the honor code, which prohibits lying, cheating, or stealing when these actions involve academic processes or University, student or academic personnel acting in an official capacity."

This standard does not preclude discussions of assignments with other students. However, I expect that each person turns in their own work. You must also provide citations for any ideas that are not your own.

## Course Schedule

Date	Topic
18-Aug	Introduction to Transportation Planning
25-Aug	Corridor Planning Virtual Tour and Visioning
1-Sep	Corridor Overview and Agency Roles (Bergen Watterson, Chapel Hill; Ellen Beckman, Durham; Andy Henry, DCHC MPO)
8-Sep	Goals & Objectives Needs Assessment Studio Time
15-Sep	Public & Stakeholder Engagement (Nicole Bennett, C2G) Studio Time
22-Sep	Travel Demand Studio Time
29-Sep	Active Transportation (Jared Draper, Toole Design) Studio Time
6-Oct	Transit Analysis Studio Time
13-Oct	Safety & Operations (Dr. Joe Hummer, NCDOT recorded) Studio Time
20-Oct	Guest Lecture TBD Studio Time
27-Oct	From Needs to Strategies Studio Time
3-Nov	Screening of Strategies Studio Time
10-Nov	Evaluation of Alternatives Studio Time
17-Nov	Guest Lecture TBD Open Studio
24-Nov	Thanksgiving
1-Dec	Mock Public Meeting

### Schedule of Deliverables

<b>Task Deliverables</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Due</b>
Visioning Workshop Design	Group	Aug 25
Goals and Objectives	Group	Sept 8
Measures of Effectiveness	Individual	Sept 15
Public Engagement Plan	Team	Sept 22
Corridor Needs Assessment	Team	Oct 26
Problem Statement	Group	Oct 27
Strategies	Individual	Nov 3
Screening of Strategies	Group	Nov 10
Evaluation of Alternatives	Group Teams	Nov 17
Mock Public Meeting	Group Teams	Dec 1