

URP 581: Better Access to Transit

Spring 2018

Version: January 30, 2018

The instructor reserve the right to make changes on this syllabus as needed.

Studio Outline

Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Improvement Study along the Metro Rail Line

Course information

Instructor: Bumjoon Kang, Ph.D. <bumjoonk@buffalo.edu>

Class Time: Tuesdays and Thursday 1:00 PM – 5:40 PM

Classroom: Hayes 201

Office Hours: You can book a time on my homepage at:

<https://bumjoon.github.io/contact/>

Office Location: Hayes 232

Credits: 6

Planning issue and studio objectives

- Is Buffalo's metro rail accessible?
- What are social consequences of poor public transit accessibility?
- How to integrate walking, bicycling, and public transit use?
- Does improving transit accessibility increase transit use and reduce single occupancy vehicles?

The studio will produce recommendations to the City of Buffalo, Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority, Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus and other agencies on how pedestrians and bicyclists can have better access to the metro rail line to reduce single occupancy vehicles. The focus area is the metro rail line connecting UB South Campus to the Buffalo Niagara Medical Camus. The client, GObike Buffalo, would initiate pop-up complete street projects based on the recommendations to enhance public transit use along the corridor. The studio outcome will inform the client on where to prioritize developing short-term strategies to improve accessibility that will support long-term infrastructure investments.

Students in the studio will learn and practice the following topics.

- Active transportation planning
- Pedestrian and bicyclist crash analysis

This draft is subject to change.

- Equitable public transportation policy
- Tactical Urbanism / pop-up project recommendations

Final Outcome Examples

The final outcome of the studio will be a professional-level planning report. Contents and formats will be determined through dynamic collaborations of students and interactions with the client. As a first example, City of Richmond's *Bicycle and Pedestrian Network Improvement Study* will be helpful for students to understand the final report expectations.

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/publications/richmond_nis/fhwahep17074.pdf

Client

GObike Buffalo

<https://gobikebuffalo.org/>

GObike Buffalo is a local NGO, working to build a thriving, dynamic and connected Buffalo by promoting biking, alternative transportation options, and improved streetscapes to create positive impacts on health, our environment, our streets and the overall quality of life for all residents. It created and introduced the Buffalo Bicycle Facility Master Plan in collaboration with the City of Buffalo.

Because the client has strong connections to local decision makers, the studio's outcomes are expected to bring real-world impacts in the region.

Client Contact

Justin Booth

Executive Director of GObike

640 Ellicott Street Buffalo, New York 14203

716-218-7161

justin@gobikebuffalo.org

Readings

Books and Reports

Sadik-Khan, J. (2017). *Streetfight: handbook for an urban revolution*. Penguin.

<https://www.amazon.com/Streetfight-Handbook-Revolution-Janette-Sadik-Khan/dp/0525429840>

ITE's Design Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach

<http://library.ite.org/pub/e1cff43c-2354-d714-51d9-d82b39d4dbad>

Manual on Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections to Transit

This draft is subject to change.

<https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/research-innovation/64496/ftareportno0111.pdf>

National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Guidelines

Visit this website: <https://nacto.org/publications/design-guides/>

1. National Association of City Transportation Officials. (2013). *Urban street design guide*. Washington: Island Press.

E-book is available for UB students.

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=660096&site=ehost-live&scope=site>

Webpage summary:

<https://nacto.org/publication/urban-street-design-guide/>

2. National Association of City Transportation Officials. (2016). *Transit street design guide*. Washington: Island Press.

Webpage summary:

<https://nacto.org/publication/transit-street-design-guide/>

Website

A summary on Complete Street policies in Buffalo, NY.

<https://gobikebuffalo.org/our-work/complete-streets/>

More reading and review materials to be added with discussing in the class.

Evaluation and Grading

All of your activities over the studio project will be graded. Attendance, participation, work outcomes, and professional attitudes are all important.

Students will be evaluated at the individual-, the group-, and the class-levels by the instructor and by peers within multiple working groups and within the class.

The instructor reserves the right to modify the following assignments and grading criteria as appropriate. Any changes to the following will be discussed with students and posted on the course website.

This draft is subject to change.

- **Attendance and participation** (class input, 20%): Attendance is important because most of the studio works are group projects. Students must understand other students' works and are expected to provide feedback to other students.
- **Work outcomes** (class output, 60%):
 - A number of sectional reports and a final comprehensive report will be graded. Work scope of the reports and additional job tasks will be defined within the course.
 - Student-defined tasks will be assigned voluntarily as a team.
 - The grading criteria: outcome quality and process (leadership, organizational skills, and timely completion)
- **Professional attitudes** (20%): They include interpersonal skills, self-motivation, efficiency, the ability to prioritize, and team player.
- **Extra points** (up to 20%): Final report and presentation require unexpected and excessive workloads when everyone is busy in the end of the semester. Final efforts to complete the project determine overall quality of the project. Students who volunteer to make extra efforts in the final report and presentation will get extra points.

In the end of the semester, students will submit a 1-page self-promotion portfolio highlighting their contributions to the studio (no pre-determined formats required) and complete a peer evaluation form (a form will be provided).

Grading schema

A	95% and above	Excellence in the everything
A-	90-94%	Excellence in both individual and group works
B+	85-89%	Excellence in either individual or group works
B	80-84%	Satisfy requirements
B-	75-79%	
C+	70-74%	
C	65-69%	
C-	60-64%	
D	55-59%	
F	<55%	

Late Work

No late works will be accepted. Students will not receive any grade for the work submitted after the specified deadline.

Work plan *(The schedule is subject to change.)*

Week	Number	Date	Planned Tasks	Reading	
Phase 1: Understand the objectives					
1	1	Tue	01/30/18	Studio selection meeting	
	2	Thu	02/01/18	Introduction and organization	
2	3	Tue	02/06/18	Case study	
	4	Thu	02/08/18	Work scope proposal	SK Intro, Ch 1, 2, 3, & 4
Phase 2: Understand the client					
3	5	Tue	02/13/18	Writing plan	
	6	Thu	02/15/18	Client meeting preparation	
4	7	Tue	02/20/18	Off-campus lecture (Dr. Forsyth)	
	8	Thu	02/22/18	Dr. Forsyth's class visit (Questions to be prepared for the studio)	
5	9	Tue	02/27/18	Client meeting Observe BNMC working group meeting (3 PM)	
	10	Thu	03/01/18		SK ~ the last Ch
Phase 3: Analysis and proposal					
6	11	Tue	03/06/18	Background sections due	
	12	Thu	03/08/18		
7	13	Tue	03/13/18		
	14	Thu	03/15/18	Draft analysis sections due	
8	15	Tue	03/20/18	No class (Spring Recess)	
	16	Thu	03/22/18	No class (Spring Recess)	
9	17	Tue	03/27/18		
	18	Thu	03/29/18		
10	19	Tue	04/03/18		
	20	Thu	04/05/18		
11	21	Tue	04/10/18		
	22	Thu	04/12/18	Draft recommendation/proposal sections due	
12	23	Tue	04/17/18		
	24	Thu	04/19/18	Draft report due	
Phase 4: Production					
13	25	Tue	04/24/18		
	26	Thu	04/26/18	Final presentation practice 1	
14	27	Tue	05/01/18	Final presentation practice 2	
	28	Thu	05/03/18	Final presentation (tentative)	
15	29	Tue	05/08/18	Follow-up meeting	
	30	Thu	05/10/18	Final report submission	

This draft is subject to change.

Data Sharing Space

Students need to find a working space for data sharing. The school provide Share Drive for the course (s:\courses\Spring 2018\Planning\URP581-582 Kang\). Students have full permission for the folder.

<http://ap.buffalo.edu/academics/related/student-services/it-services/tutorials-and-faqs/work-anywhere/connecting-to-share-drive-windows.html>

Other online spaces may be selected (e.g., UBbox, Dropbox, or Google Drive).