

WEST END BUSINESS DISTRICT, THE SOUTHWEST HUB OF ATLANTA'S CORE

Planning the framework for this crucial Transit Oriented Development opportunity

Cross-disciplinary Planning and Design Framework Studio

CP 6052 md MWF 2-6 Spring 2014 (mike.dobbins@coa.gatech.edu)

This studio will focus on the West End Business District as anchored by the West End MARTA station and ample (too much?) interstate access. West End business leaders will have established a Community Improvement District (CID) as one of a number of moves to catalyze revitalization and growth for the district as an important center for neighborhoods to the southwest, the Atlanta University Center campuses, with connectivity directly into Downtown. If and as Northside Drive flows into the district, connects directly to I-20 and the West End MARTA station, its potential as a hub for Cobb Community Transit's projected Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), GRTA and MARTA buses greatly strengthens the business and residential prospects for West End.

The studio will explore these prospects with the West End business and residential communities, in terms of a more effective multimodal transportation system, in terms of development mix, in terms of urban design and regulatory frameworks, in terms of benefits to the surrounding communities, and in terms of environmental and health impacts. It will provide students the opportunity to apply their knowledge in support of an emerging commitment to develop the linkages that can regenerate the West End as a major center. The studio will host stakeholders' sessions to guide the work, one early on to review the scope, another to review the findings and analyses underway, and a final one to share proposals.

The studio will incorporate interdisciplinary principles, processes and interactions that are fundamental to the design of places for people. The weave between policy, planning, housing and community development, urban design, architecture, transportation planning and engineering, environmental and landscape design, and land development will provide the disciplinary context for the studio. Thus, the studio encourages participation from the full range of specializations, including the range of dual degrees.

