Introduction to Transportation Planning

CMP 4710/6710    Fall 2012    3 Credit Hours
Room: ARCH 229   Tuesdays & Thursdays   3:40-5:00

Instructor: Keith Bartholomew, J.D. – Associate Professor, Department of City & Metropolitan Planning; Associate Dean, College of Architecture + Planning; former associate director of the Wallace Stegner Center for Land, Resources and the Environment at the S.J. Quinney College of Law; former staff attorney for 1000 Friends of Oregon, one of the nation’s leading growth management advocacy organizations (see http://www.friends.org).

Introduction: Aside from cruising State Street on a Saturday night, transportation is not an objective in and of itself, but a means to carry out the functions of daily living (i.e., it’s a “derived good”). As a consequence, the transportation systems we build and maintain form the armature for our communities and regions. That armature both affects and is affected by the land use patterns that surround it, and the interactions between land use and transportation influence a host of public and environmental values, including air quality, energy consumption, climate change, social equity, fiscal health, and public health. Unfortunately, most transportation planning processes fail to acknowledge fully these interactive relationships. While we will spend some time in this course looking at transportation issues in isolation, we will focus most of our study on the interactions between transportation and a number of other systems important to communities.

Course Objectives: By the end of the semester, students in this course will understand and be able to articulate verbally and in writing:

- current and historical transportation policies and conditions in the U.S.,
- the impacts those policies and conditions have on other human and environmental systems,
- the major theories underlying transportation planning,
- leading transportation planning practices, and
- transportation planning processes and the basic functions of transportation planning agencies.