“Active mobility – walking or cycling – is the fundamental and most common form of human locomotion. It entails a paradigm shift from the “car-friendly city” ... no longer simply a secured space of efficient transit (but) a gathering place and a space for people to linger, a setting for urban life”

Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, 2014

This studio will explore designs for built environments in support of active mobility, primarily focused on urban and recreational cycling, and at the intersection of social and environmental consciousness. We will be working in concert with the City of Eugene’s Active Transportation unit, as well as engaging local bicycle advocates and community organizations.

We will begin with an exploration of the active mobility physical and social landscape, that exists between Eugene’s “ridges and rivers”, and along the active transportation network that connects them, from the top of Spencer’s Butte across to Skinner Butte, and possibly even as far as Fern Ridge Lake. There will be a range of projects to consider... Perhaps designing a concentrated “hub” of multiple functions and spaces that supports a larger, more structured gathering place for the active mobility community; or perhaps developing smaller dispersed interventions of built/hardscape/landscape forms to create recognizable places along the “spokes” of the network.

The “hub” will be a community center serving as a focal point for the more dispersed activities and pathways. Its program will include community meeting spaces, bike shop/repair, local bicycle history exhibition, cafe/coffee, and even short-term group housing, with an extensive outdoor program of event and food truck spaces, and a traffic garden - a downscaled streetscape for learning how to ride safely in an urban setting - and maybe a small velodrome. Some “spoke” examples might be bike rest stops, ride-meet shelters, or secure bike storage and changing/shower facilities at trailheads or commercial nodes, along the various paths. These can serve the active mobility community in warmer months, and shelter other communities in inclement weather.

Studio work will include field trips (some possibly by bicycle), stakeholder interactions, in-studio work and review, lectures and readings. Work on projects will be both individual and in groups, and will include ecological inventory and analysis, precedents and development of sustainable energy, water and materials systems. Smaller scale projects will be required to be extensively detailed as to materials, structure and construction, while larger projects will be required to be more comprehensively developed as to energy, water and materials strategies and systems.

*Pre-requisites for 484: ARCH 384
*Pre-requisites for 584: ARCH 682 or 683

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