

**USC Price School of Planning + Public Policy  
Complete Streets and Bicycle Planning Studio 4 units  
Master of Urban Planning Degree - Planning Studio PPD531L Section 51220D**

**Project: Streetscape Improvement Plans for the University Park Neighborhood**

**FALL 2014 Syllabus**

**Instructor:** Alison Kendall, LEED AP BD+C, AICP, Architect, Kendall Planning + Design  
**Contact Info:** [kendallplanning@gmail.com](mailto:kendallplanning@gmail.com) or cell: 310-460-8522  
**Course date/time:** Thursday mornings 9am-12:20pm, August 28, 2014-December 4, 2014  
**Room:**  
**Office hours:** By Appointment Thurs afternoons 1-3pm  
**Course website:** [www.wordpress.com/completestreetsstudio.com](http://www.wordpress.com/completestreetsstudio.com)

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

Current transportation thought, design, and practices are being reevaluated as we strive towards healthy, mobile, and sustainable cities and regions. Integration of pedestrian and bicycle planning into transportation planning is essential in creating a sustainable system to achieve these goals. This Studio class will focus on the emerging field of pedestrian bicycle planning and “complete street design” which reconciles needs of a broad group of street users and community members.

Pedestrian and bicycle transportation are influenced by micro-scale elements of the built environment, such as sidewalks, bicycle lanes, traffic speeds, and roadway crossings, as well as by macro-scale characteristics, such as community-wide pathway systems and regional land use and street grid patterns. As a result, addressing walking and bicycling issues requires the bridging of many disciplines, including urban planning/design, civil engineering, and others. Thus, this course brings experiences from professionals in many fields (both public and private) and researchers at the local and national level into the classroom to provide diverse perspectives on effective ped/bike planning strategies.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES:** This course is designed to expose students to the emerging field and to critically discuss the key issues affecting the non-motorized transportation practice today. Students will be able to discuss and apply the following knowledge in the Semester Planning Project:

- Benefits and challenges of creating walkable and bikeable environments
- Influence of land use and network connectivity on mode choice
- Pedestrian and bicycle facility design fundamentals for safety and access
- Methods to document and analyze bicycle and pedestrian safety and access
- Processes to create, implement, and evaluate bicycle and pedestrian plans
- Elements of a comprehensive non-motorized transportation program

A series of short, individual and group assignments are intended to engage students in relevant issues, encourage critical thinking, and build written and verbal presentation skills. A semester-long client-based project (SP) will allow student groups to work on real-world pedestrian and bicycle projects in the USC community and directly apply their knowledge from the class. Throughout the course, students will be exposed to current issues and various national and international perspectives through films and guest lectures from widely-recognized experts in the field.

The Fall 2014 Complete Streets Studio will build on previous Bicycle and Pedestrian Planning efforts in the area, include an emphasis on street design to improve pedestrian safety, and develop new models for collaboration on bike/pedestrian planning and complete streets initiatives between USC, the City of Los Angeles, and the community surrounding the campus. Complete Streets, which accommodate not just bicycles but also pedestrians, the disabled, transit users and others will be explored in local, US and international examples, as will strategies for improving both pedestrian and bicycle safety through street design, education, and other policy and planning initiatives.

**Background:**

Cycling has gained a lot of momentum in LA over the past couple of years, and the area around USC has a unique potential due to its large number of cyclists, downtown location, and transit access. In the spring of 2010, the City of LA adopted its new 2010 Bicycle Master Plan which includes an ambitious Five-Year Implementation Strategy for backbone and neighborhood networks of bikeway facilities. The Complete Streets Act went into effect in early 2011, mandating that the City's General Plan accommodate multiple modes of travel. Cycling advocacy now makes regular front page news, especially when over 100,000 cyclists and pedestrians flood LA's temporarily car-free streets during CicLAvia Sundays in April and October.

Meanwhile, big changes are under way in the areas surrounding USC's campus with approval of USC's University Village Specific Plan by the City of LA. The Plan will guide the university's expansion to the North to accommodate additional student housing and provide new retail and commercial facilities in the neighborhood. The project includes redesign of numerous streets which provide key links for pedestrians and cyclists connecting the campus and neighborhood. Among these streets is Jefferson Boulevard, a major E-W neighborhood heavily used by student and community members and site of significant numbers of pedestrian and cyclists injuries. USC's 2012 Campus Bicycle Master Plan includes numerous proposals for a Campus Bicycle Network which connected to campus access projects to improve the convenience of cycling while reducing cyclist and pedestrian injuries.

Beyond the campus, LA's MyFigueroa project will provide important streetscape enhancements along busy Figueroa corridor between Exposition Park and Downtown LA by 2016 to enhance opportunities for cyclists and pedestrians. The new Exposition Light Rail line, with a bikeways running alongside, opened in Spring 2012 and has already significantly transformed non-automobile-related access to the neighborhoods it traverses, including USC. Although all of these major projects include bicycle and pedestrian facilities as an important element in their overall plans, careful coordination and sustained advocacy is still needed, to refine and expand on existing proposals and to get the respective elements from the bicycle master plan implemented in the area, both within and beyond the confines of the USC campus.

The Studio Project's general focus area will be the area around USC bounded by Exposition Blvd to the South, Western to the West, Flower Street to the East and West Adams to the North, with key attention directed at one of three potential bicycle and pedestrian corridors linking the core USC University Park campus with adjacent neighborhoods to the north and west. This includes Jefferson Boulevard from Western to Vermont Ave and from Vermont to Flower Street, both heavily used corridors for bicycle and pedestrian travel. In addition, the studio will look at the potential to improve north/south bicycle and pedestrian connections between the campus and the neighborhoods to the north, looking at such N/S routes as McClintock, Hoover, University Walk and Royal. All projects will be studied in relation to other major land use, development and streetscape projects such as the My Figueroa complete streets project, street improvements to Jefferson Blvd, and the major University Village redevelopment area planned along Hoover St.

Students will be encouraged to focus on either Jefferson Boulevard or the North/South Hoover Avenue Corridor, two key links to the campus from the adjacent neighborhood, and will explore the key considerations for transforming busy high speed streets into more vibrant, livable streets which support existing and growing pedestrian and bicycle travel, transit, and shopping activities. Among the topics to be explored in the course of the semester are:

- 1) Complete Streets vs. Typical LA Streets
- 2) Parking and Vehicle Speed: Key design and policy tools to reclaim our streets
- 3) Analyzing Pedestrian and Cyclists Injury Data; safety countermeasures
- 4) Analyzing pedestrian, cycling and transit data for streetscape design
- 5) Street trees, street furniture, sidewalk width, fostering street life
- 6) Public health issues, Safe Routes to School and effective encouragement and advocacy
- 7) Community Engagement Techniques for Urban Streetscape Projects
- 8) Putting Complete Streets into Practice: Streetscape Redesign Project

### **About the Instructor, Alison Kendall AICP**

Alison Kendall is an architect and planner and owner of Kendall Planning + Design, a design and planning firm which provides bicycle, pedestrian, sustainable community and green building design services. Alison has managed large and complex projects for several major planning agencies, and has provided urban design, design review and planning consultant services for many more cities throughout California. She has also taught Sustainable Design and Planning at the college and professional development level in both the US and in France. Alison Kendall participated as a subject matter expert on the Pedestrian Access Working Group for LEED ND and LEEDv4 by the US Green Building Council and has spoken at numerous national, state, regional and local conferences about her work on sustainable planning and design. Kendall Planning + Design prepared the USC Campus Bicycle Master Plan which can be found online at [www.usc.edu/bike](http://www.usc.edu/bike) under "Campus Projects."

## COMPLETE STREETS AND BICYCLE PLANNING STUDIO

### CLASS PARTICIPATION

This class relies on active participation from students. You are expected to complete the reading assignment listed in the syllabus and any assignment before the start of class that day. We will periodically discuss current events along with the reading assignments. Please send any news stories you would like to discuss to the instructor in advance of the class.

### ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

The assignments will be discussed in detail on the first day of class, and written instructions will be provided on Blackboard. Please contact the TA or instructor with any questions.

#	Percentage of Total Grade	Available	Due	Description
1	10	8/28/14	9/4/14	In-class presentation on benefits of walking and bicycling (group)
2	5	9/4/14	9/11/14	Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Class (individual)
3	10	9/18/14	9/25/14	In-class presentation critiquing local pedestrian or bicycle plans/issues (group)
4	5	9/25/14	10/2/14	Public hearing summary (individual)
SP-1	20	10/2/14	10/9/14	Field data collection and analysis (group)
SP-2	10	10/18/14	10/23/14	Policy/plan recommendations (group)
SP-3	20	11/13/14	11/20/14	Draft Plan, implementation (group)
SP-4a	10	11/20/14	11/20/14	Final Client Presentation in class (group)
SP-4b	10	11/20/14	12/4/14	Final Plan Document (group)
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>			

Late assignments will receive a 10% penalty for each day late.

### Statement on Academic Integrity

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

### Statement for Students with Disabilities

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

**PPD 531L: COMPLETE STREETS AND BICYCLE PLANNING STUDIO**  
**FALL 2014 CLASS SCHEDULE**

**All Classes held Thursday mornings 9am-12:20pm.**

Date	Week	Topic	Assignments (guests dates tentative)
8/28/14	1	1 – Course and Assignment Overview and Student Survey	In Class Survey
8/28/14	1	2 – Introduction to Pedestrian and Bicycle Planning	(note 2 topics covered in 3hr class)
9/4/14	2	Class Activity: Summarize Health, Social Equity, Environment, and Economic Development Issues	Assignment 1: DUE-5-7 minute group presentation on benefits of bike/ped.
9/4/14	2	3 – Pedestrian Design and Human Behaviors Review Walk Audit and Bike Safety Class Materials	Note: non cyclists may walk not bike Bring signed release, bike, helmet 9/11
9/11/14	3	Class Activity: Walk Audits, Bike Safety Class Before Class: Review Walk Audit, Bike Safety Info	FIELD TRIP OFF USC CAMPUS Note: Bring release, bike, helmet, lock
9/18/14	4	4 – Bike Design – SELECT GROUP PROJECT AREAS: Jefferson E or W of Vermont, Hoover/Univ. Walk	Confirm Group Selection:3-4/group Jefferson EorW of Vermont, Hoover
9/18/14	4	5 – Site Design and Review-IN CLASS CHARRETTE	Analyze your Project Site with Group
9/25/14	5	6 – Anatomy of a Pedestrian/Bike Master Plan	Review: LA 2010 BMP, USCBMP
9/25/14	5	7 – Evaluating Pedestrian Master Plans	City of LA Mobility Elem, Metro Expo
9/25/14	5	Class Activity: Present Critique of Ped/Bike Plans	Assignment 3: Bike Ped Plan Critique
10/2/14	6	8 – Land Use, Connectivity, and Urban Design	Analyze project areas
10/2/14	6	9 – Safety Evaluation: Audits and Crash Data Analysis-(Analyze Data for your Project Area)	Reading: SafeTrec Campus Bike Ped Safety Paper Guests: LAPD, DPS
10/9/14	7	10 – Connection with land use and transportation plans, Transportation Demand Mgt. Policies	Reading: LA Mobility Plan
10/9/14	7	11 – Performance Measures	Determine relevant PMs for Project
10/16/14	8	12 – Demand Estimation and Analysis	Collect Project Safety, PM, Count Data
10/16/14	8	13 – Facility Analysis Tools	Read: PedSafe or NACTO Bikeways
10/23/14	9	14 – Public participation, coalition building, and partner buy-in	Guests: Trust South LA, LACBC, Jen Klausner, Eric Bruins, Tafarai Baines
10/30/14	10	15 – Funding (and development review), Implementation, and Institutionalization	Guests: LA DOT, LA City Planning, Metro, Valerie Watson
11/6/13	11	16 – Data Collection Part I: Needs, Sources, Methods, Measures	David Sommers LA Planning (tent) Presentation: Project Data Summary
11/13/14	12	17 – Education, Enforcement, and Encouragement	Guests: SRTS, Active Streets LA, USCBC
11/20/14	13	18 – International Design, Planning, and Policy	Poster Presentations
11/27/14	14	THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY- NO CLASS	
12/4/14	15	FINAL STUDENT PRESENTATIONS Prepare 10 minute PPT , outreach effort, and Planning document to be posted on class website.	ALL PROJECTS DUE BY 12/5/14 Guest critics from USC, LA DOT, Metro, LACBC, LA Walks and other orgs.