This studio focuses on a multi-story, multi-unit transportation oriented development (TOD) at the “Crossing” in Gresham, Oregon. The project also includes ground floor retail uses and public outdoor spaces that provide ecological habitat and that demonstrate environmentally friendly, “soft” stormwater management practices. The site is adjacent to a proposed (and soon to be constructed) light rail transit stop.

This studio will explore the potential synergies between TOD and habitat friendly development (HFD). Can dense developments associated with non-motorized transit also support the ecological health of the city? To help study this question, we will work with Josh Cerra, a Portland-based ecologist and environmental designer, as well as team members in Portland Metro’s “Nature in Neighborhoods” and “Transportation Oriented Development” programs.

This studio will be a larger than typical (20+ students), where participants will work in interdisciplinary teams of 3, and with 8 spots reserved for Landscape Architecture students. The studio will be working closely with Nico Larco’s ARCH 4/584 studio.

This studio is part of the 2009-2010 School of Architecture and Allied Arts’ “Sustainable Cities Year” that is being launched through the Sustainable Cities Initiative (SCI). SCI represents a multidisciplinary research, policy and teaching effort to comprehensively address a range of issues related to urban environmental, economic and social health, including but not limited to: urban design, housing, stormwater management, non-motorized transit and ecological habitat. Each year, SCI will identify a different partner city. For 2009-2010, SCI will work with Gresham, Oregon.