HOUSING + TRANSIT @ Murphy Crossing – Transit Oriented Development – TOD with a focus on Housing and Open Space

Two major topics in almost every major urban city in the United States is that of Housing + Transit. This Studio will be addressing both topics along with Green Space / Open Space. What does Affordable Housing look like for the City of Atlanta? Note: The Studio will engage with professionals from both the Public Sector and Private Sector throughout the course of the Semester.

Housing types will include but not be limited to the following: Affordable / Workforce - Market Rate - Senior Living - Student Oriented Housing - Modular / Social Living / Tiny Houses

It is intended that this will be an Architectural Design Studio dealing with Urban issues – those issues will be a combination of Housing, Open / Green Spaces and Transit + Commercial / Retail uses. While the primary focus for the Studio will be that of housing – the students will also design a new infill MARTA Station.

It is intended that the overall Square Footage – SF for the project be between 50,000 – 100,000 SF.

Our site for the project is in the City of Atlanta, near the intersection of Murphy & White Street – just off the Lee Street corridor – south of the I – 20. The site is also known as Murphy Crossing aka, the Farmers Market. The site sits just west of the Adair Park neighborhood and almost the entire east side of the site is bounded by the Beltline.

For several years, this site and the surrounding communities (including Adair Park) has suffered from being in a food desert and still is. Historically the Murphy Crossing site was also known as the Farmers Market site. And was a place where fresh produce was bought and sold.

Currently there is a Request For Proposals – RFP – out to work with the City of Atlanta (Invest Atlanta) and the Atlanta Beltline to develop the overall +/- 20 acre site into a place for housing and jobs. Our studio will only be responsible for a portion of the site – but will have clear understanding of the overall goals and objectivates for the site and the overall program. A short-list of three development teams are still awaiting word on who will be chosen to design and develop the site. My firm – Studio H Architecture Planning Environments – SHAPE along with the architectural office of Cooper Carry is on one of the teams.

In the recent past, MARTA completed a study where it located the different opportunities and needs to create additional stations – Infill Stations. Where MARTA has stations that are more than a mile apart – they have discovered that they are losing ridership in the middle – as is the case with the Murphy Crossing site, the West End MARTA Station and the Oakland City MARTA Station (both on the North-South line) are more than 1 mile apart from one another. And is currently losing ridership to a vastly changing community / surrounding area (all for the better).

In the center of these two stations is a part of the Murphy Crossing site that would intersect with the Beltline. Thus, making this one of the only sites in the City of Atlanta where there could be direct connectivity with both MARTA and the Beltline – all within 15 minutes from the busiest airport in the world. Thus, creating a very strong argument that from this site – one has access to the City of Atlanta and the world and is not dependent on a car.

The Studio will be responsible for the high-level Conceptual Design of an infill MARTA Station and the more detailed design of approximately 75 – 100 units of housing + support space / amenities and Open Space.