**FHWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation University Course**

**Module: 18 – Temporary Facilities and Maintenance**

**Assignment: Pedestrian Access During Construction**

**PROMPT**

This assignment will give students the opportunity to witness how pedestrian access is affected during the roadway construction process at a work zone in their area. Students should identify an active roadway construction site, preferably at a location with significant pedestrian activity (i.e., not a freeway or highway). Observe the site and note what efforts are being made to accommodate pedestrian travel. Considerations include:

* What type of warning and informational signage is present? Where is the signage located? How much advanced warning is given? Note signage directed specifically at drivers as well as pedestrians.
* Are any transit stops closed or relocated due to construction? How is access provided to the relocated stops (including wayfinding)?
* Overall, how traversable is the construction detour for pedestrians with disabilities? Consider the travel surface (pavement, gravel, grass, dirt, metal plates), abrupt changes in elevation, and accessibility of destinations such as building entrances.
* Are there other accommodations that could be made or might be more appropriate?

Conduct a survey of the location during a peak travel period (e.g., lunch hour, AM or PM commute) and observe pedestrian and driver behavior. Notice whether pedestrians (including any construction workers) are using the facilities in place. Do they violate the channelization? Speculate why they violate it. Do drivers yield to pedestrians at temporary facilities? What can be done to improve the situation?

Note that high-profile projects may have their own project websites or pages hosted by the state or local department of transportation (e.g., bridge replacement, major underground utility work, new developments). If these sites describe the project provisions for pedestrian access during construction, students can compare the plans with the provisions at the actual project site.

Students may prepare short presentations (with photos) or write a 2- to 3-page memo to the local department of transportation describing the conditions and recommendations for better accommodating pedestrian travel at the construction site.

**GROUND RULES FOR CONDUCTING FIELD WORK**

1. Safety first. Do not put yourself in harm’s way to collect data. Online map imagery may be substituted for photographs from the field as needed to ensure student safety.
2. Travel and collect data in groups of two or more students. Team members must work together to find data collection times that ensure no team member has to collect data alone. Conducting fieldwork alone is not permitted, for reasons of safety, accountability, and accuracy of data.
3. Do not conduct field work after dark. When visibility is poor, you jeopardize your safety and the quality of the data you are collecting.
4. If members of the public are curious about what students are doing, students should inform them they are university students working on a class project. They may engage with neighbors wanting share their thoughts and ideas about mobility in the study area, but not initiate such conversations.
5. Do not block or otherwise interfere with traffic (motorized or not).
6. Students may take photos but must do so respectfully and carefully. Do NOT take photos of people, their homes, or their vehicles without their permission.