**FHWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation University Course**

**Module: 1 – Introduction to Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation - Past, Present, and Future**

**Assignment: Transportation Autobiography**

*This assignment was inspired by Dr. William (Billy) Riggs of University of San Francisco*

**PROMPT**

In this assignment, students develop a text and/or graphic representation of their own journey to work or school. The activity is intended to get students thinking about how internal (i.e., personal) and external (e.g., environment, infrastructure, other travelers, school/work demands) factors influence their travel decisions. Students should document their primary routine, starting from departing their home, and explain clearly their decisions regarding trip purpose (i.e., why are they making the trip), choice of mode, route, and departure time, including internal and external factors influencing those decisions.

Students should make notes of conditions they encounter along their route, including any features of the environment that support or hinder their travel, as well as any observations about fellow travelers’ experiences, if possible and safe to do so (e.g., are buses full? Is traffic congestion a factor? Are there facilities for people walking and bicycling? Who is or isn’t using those facilities?). Optional: photographs along the route can help illustrate the trip conditions and can be used to convert the journal entry assignment into a brief in-class presentation.