**FHWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation University Course**

**Module: 3 – User and Mode Characteristics**

**Assignment: Waypoint Tour**

**PROMPT**

The objective of this exercise is to get students thinking about how different street designs work (or do not work) for a variety of people and modes. In completing this exercise, students will cover just under two miles along a range of street conditions. Students may choose whatever \*non-car\* mode with which they are comfortable. They will need to bring with them a camera or sketchbook, and a means of recording notes (pen & paper, tablet, audio recorder, etc.).

Expected deliverables include a brief in-class discussion and a 750-word lab report that includes observations, a route map, and sketches/photos as described below.

Students may work on this assignment in small groups, however, write-ups should be completed and submitted individually.

The instructor should identify up to 6 landmarks, intersections, or bus stops, or other relevant points of interest. Ideally, points should be within a square ½ mile, or within ¼ mile of the next closest point.

Students then choose a route that takes them to each of the waypoints using any non-car travel mode available to them. Along the way, students should:

1. Draw their route on a map
2. List the type of streets along which they travel (based on street hierarchies or design languages, if already covered in class)
3. List the travel modes and types of travelers for which the streets appear to be designed
4. Briefly describe the appropriateness of the street design for their chosen travel mode
5. If they encounter areas along the route that are particularly difficult or pleasant to navigate, sketch or take a photo of those areas and briefly describe what makes them difficult or pleasant. Students can challenge themselves to identify and document at least two difficult areas and two pleasant ones.

At each waypoint, students should:

1. Sketch or take a photo of the waypoint
2. Spend 3-4 minutes observing how other individuals use the space, and how easy or difficult it appears to be for them to navigate the space (are they walking to a destination? Hanging out? Interacting with other modes?)
3. Briefly summarize their observations

**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.