Transportation Timeline

1804: Lewis and Clark’s expedition leaves from St. Louis.

1807: Robert Fulton operates the first steamboat with regular passenger service.

1830: Peter Cooper designs and builds the first American steam locomotive that operated on a common carrier railroad.

1869: The Transcontinental Railroad is completed on May 10 in Promontory Point, Utah.

1888: Frank Sprague designs a complete system of electric streetcars in Richmond, Virginia.

1903: The Wright Brothers fly the first manned airplane.

1913: Henry Ford installs the moving assembly line in the Ford Manufacturing Plant.

1927: Charles A. Lindbergh makes the first solo, non-stop, transatlantic flight in the “Spirit of St. Louis” airplane.

1932: Amelia Earhart is the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean.

1956: President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs the Federal Aid Highway Act establishing the Interstate Highway System.


The Museum of Transportation Education Department
St. Louis, Missouri