

Executive Summary
ROLLING FORWARD

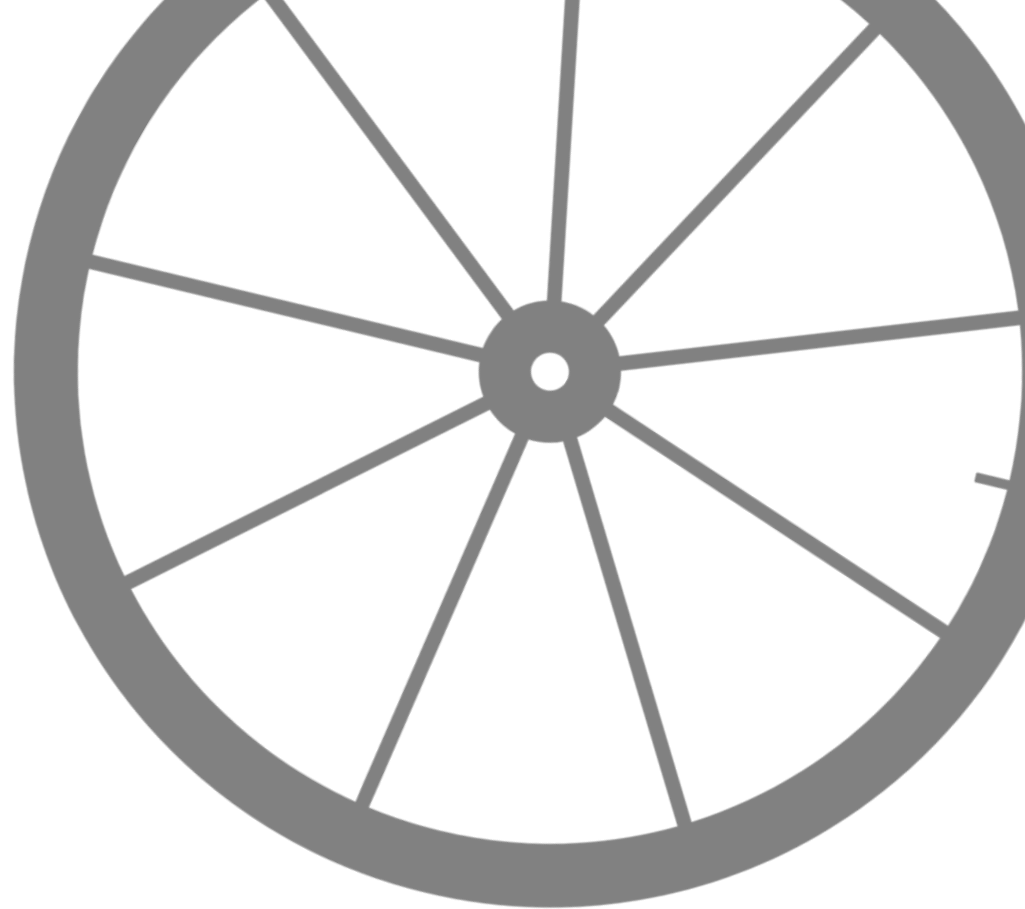
Miami-Dade's Path Towards Bicycle-Friendly Designation



NOVEMBER 2025



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Introduction and Purpose

Miami-Dade County has long recognized that creating safe, accessible, and connected spaces for bicycling is essential to its vision for a multimodal future. At the center of this effort is the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), which serves as the steward of the County's participation in the Bicycle Friendly America (BFA) program administered by the League of American Bicyclists.

The TPO is guiding Miami-Dade County's renewal of its Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) designation, first achieved in 2017 at the Bronze level. **Figure 1** shows the League of American Bicyclists logo and the Bronze Award. This renewal represents the County's commitment to strengthening bicycle infrastructure, education, enforcement, and culture as integral components of its transportation system. By stewarding the BFA process, the TPO ensures continuity, technical accuracy, and meaningful engagement across the diverse communities and institutions that make up Miami-Dade.

Central to this effort was the Bike-Friendly Workshop, held on May 2, 2025, as a countywide call to action. The workshop convened municipalities, universities, businesses, advocacy organizations, and residents to share strategies, inspire participation, and lower barriers to the BFA application. It also positioned Miami-Dade to expand beyond its own renewal by cultivating a pipeline of applicants across sectors.

To reinforce transparency and collaboration, the TPO established a Project Working Group (PWG). This group, comprised of transportation partners, municipal representatives, advocacy leaders, and institutional stakeholders, met regularly to provide guidance and direction on the County's application. Together, the workshop and PWG reflect the TPO's stewardship role: ensuring that the Bicycle Friendly America program in Miami-Dade is not a one-time designation, but a sustained and inclusive movement toward safer and more bicycle-friendly communities.

This executive summary presents the key findings of the *Rolling Forward* report, highlighting Miami-Dade's progress to date, the outcomes of the workshop and PWG process, the County's renewal application, and the broader strategy to expand bicycle-friendly participation across municipalities, businesses, and universities.



Figure 1: League of American Bicyclists Logo and Bronze Award

Program Background

The BFA program, developed by the League of American Bicyclists, offers a comprehensive framework to help communities, businesses, and universities promote cycling as a safe, practical, and attractive option for all individuals. Entities are recognized as Bicycle Friendly Communities (BFCs), Bicycle Friendly Businesses (BFBs), and Bicycle Friendly Universities (BFUs), with designations awarded at the Diamond, Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze levels.

The program evaluates how these entities are advancing the “5 Es” of bicycle friendliness: Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Evaluation and Planning, as well as Equity and Accessibility. **Figure 2** illustrates the “5 Es” framework established by the BFA. Entities earn Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, or Diamond designations, which are valid for four years and must be renewed to maintain status.

Nationally, the program has recognized 480 communities, 1,341 businesses, and 209 universities since its inception in 2003. In addition to recognition, the process provides customized feedback and a framework for improvement. For local governments and institutions, designation strengthens eligibility for grants, supports economic development, and creates a culture of safety and mobility.

Miami-Dade County earned its Bronze BFC designation in 2017, following the TPO’s inaugural Bike-Friendly Summit and first application submission. The County is now within its extended grace period, working to reaffirm its place as a leader in bicycle-friendly practices.

Through the TPO’s stewardship, Miami-Dade is utilizing this renewal process to re-examine local strengths and challenges, support municipalities and institutions in their own applications, and ensure that bicycle friendliness is integrated throughout the County in transportation plans and safety strategies.



Local Landscape of Designations

Miami-Dade County has steadily grown its presence within the BFA program, with designations spanning local governments, businesses, and academic institutions. These recognitions reflect a broad community commitment to making cycling more visible, accessible, and supported across the region.

The following lists summarize the current Bicycle Friendly designations for communities, businesses, and universities within Miami-Dade County.

Bicycle Friendly Communities (7):

City of Doral (Bronze, 2017–2021)
City of Miami (Bronze, 2016–2020)
City of Miami Beach (Silver, 2017–2021)
City of South Miami (Bronze, 2021–2025)
Miami Shores Village (Bronze, 2017–2021)
Miami-Dade County (Bronze, 2017-2021)
Village of Key Biscayne (Bronze, 2018–2022)

Bicycle Friendly Businesses (5):

Dover Kohl & Partners (Silver, 2017-2021)
Dade Heritage Trust (Silver, 2017-2021)
Mack Cycle & Fitness (Platinum, 2016-2020)
Magic City Bicycle Collective (Gold, 2018-2022)
West Kendall Baptist Hospital (Bronze, 2017-2021)

Bicycle Friendly University (1):

University of Miami (Bronze, 2020-2024)

This highlights both the breadth of engagement and the fragility of designations when renewals are not pursued. Several municipalities and businesses are currently within their grace period or have lapsed altogether. The renewal of Miami-Dade County's Bronze designation is therefore an opportunity to do more than maintain recognition. Under the TPO's stewardship, the process is being used to:

- + Re-engage expired or at-risk designations, providing technical support for renewal applications.
- + Encourage first-time applicants, especially among medium-sized cities, universities, and major employers.
- + Build a pipeline of future designations, creating visibility and shared accountability across sectors.

Taken together, Miami-Dade's network of bicycle-friendly communities, businesses, and institutions illustrates the foundation already in place. By aligning these efforts under a countywide strategy, the TPO is helping ensure that individual designations contribute to a larger culture of bicycle friendliness across Miami-Dade.

The Bike-Friendly Workshop

The Miami-Dade Bike-Friendly Workshop, held on May 2, 2025, was a cornerstone of the County’s renewal process. Organized by the TPO as both an information session and a call to action, the workshop created a platform for municipalities, universities, businesses, and advocacy groups to engage in the BFA program actively. **Figures 3** and **4** provide a collage of photos from the workshop, showing presentations, panel discussions, helmet fitting, and a bike valet and repair station.

Diverse Participation

The workshop brought together more than 50 participants, representing municipalities, employers, local nonprofits, advocacy organizations, and educational institutions. This broad cross-section underscored the county's overall commitment to bicycle-friendliness and highlighted the potential for collaboration across sectors.

Peer Leadership and Inspiration

Designated entities, including the City of Miami Beach and the University of Miami, were intentionally featured on the agenda. Their presentations provided first-hand perspectives on the application process, the benefits of designation, and lessons learned. By showcasing these leaders, the TPO ensured that participants had relatable models to guide their own efforts.

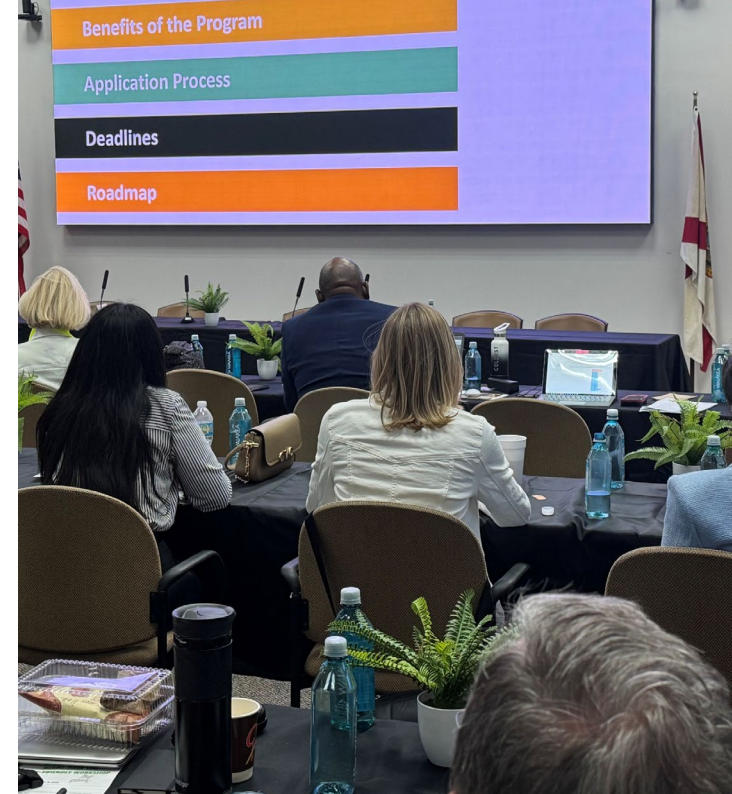
Hands-On Tools and Resources

Participants received toolkits with practical guidance on completing applications, understanding designation criteria, and gathering supporting data. By lowering the barrier to entry, the workshop positioned new applicants to move forward with confidence while also encouraging lapsed entities to pursue renewal.

Direct Engagement of Decision-Makers

Outreach went beyond mass invitations. The TPO made personal calls and follow-ups to elected officials, city managers, and institutional leaders. Their participation ensured that the conversation included decision-makers with the authority to commit resources and staff capacity.

Figure 3: Collage of photos from the Miami-Dade TPO's 2025 Bike-Friendly Workshop.



Outcomes and Momentum

The workshop successfully:

- + Engaged 50+ participants.
- + Increased awareness of the BFA program and its benefits.
- + Equipped entities with resources to begin or renew applications.
- + Sparked commitments from municipalities and institutions to pursue designations.
- + Positioned Miami-Dade County as both a participant and a regional convener of bicycle-friendly action.

In addition to supporting Miami-Dade's own renewal, the workshop created the foundation for a broader network of applications that will expand the County's visibility within the Bicycle Friendly America program in 2025 and beyond.

Project Working Group

To guide and oversee the renewal process, the Miami-Dade TPO convened a PWG that was composed of representatives from:

- + Bike305
- + League of American Bicyclists
- + City of Miami Beach
- + Florida Bicycle Association
- + Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Six
- + Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces (PROS)
- + Miami-Dade Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW)
- + University of Miami KiDZ Neuroscience Center

The group met three times over the course of the study to:

- + Review draft materials and data summaries.
- + Provide feedback on application development.
- + Ensure alignment with countywide goals for safety, multimodal access, and equity.
- + Endorse the study's recommendations and next steps.

By establishing the PWG, the TPO ensured that the renewal process was collaborative, transparent, and technically sound. The group's input strengthened the County's application and reinforced shared ownership of bicycle-friendly efforts across Miami-Dade.

Figure 4: Continued collage of photos from the Miami-Dade TPO's 2025 Bike-Friendly Workshop.



Miami-Dade's Application Highlights

Miami-Dade County's renewal application reflects significant progress since earning its Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community designation in 2017. Guided by the TPO's stewardship, the application demonstrates how the County is advancing across the 5 E's of the BFA framework.



Engineering sets the foundation for a safe and connected network. Miami-Dade is investing in projects that protect riders, close gaps, and connect people to schools, jobs, and transit.

- + The County manages 525 miles of bicycle facilities, with more than 80% of planned projects designed as protected or off-road.
- + The planned Miami LOOP and SMART Trails will link communities across the region with high-quality greenways.
- + Recent projects include buffered lanes in Miami Beach, protected lanes downtown, and intersection upgrades in high-injury corridors.



Education ensures riders, drivers, and youth know how to travel safely. Miami-Dade's programs reach thousands each year, building confidence and knowledge across all ages.

- + University of Miami's BikeSafe brings bike safety into classrooms and onto playgrounds through bike rodeos, helmet-fitting events, and student training.
- + Adults learn the basics of commuting, maintenance, and traffic skills through classes taught by League Cycling Instructors and local advocates.
- + Public campaigns spread consistent messages about rules of the road, sharing space, and the benefits of bicycling.



Encouragement makes bicycling visible and celebrated. Miami-Dade has built a culture where cycling is recognized as part of daily life.

- + Bike305 is a Miami-Dade County initiative that promotes cycling as a healthy, sustainable, and connective form of transportation, primarily through its events and the promotion of county bike pathways. The program aims to enhance connectivity, encourage healthy lifestyles, and provide resources like trail maps and safety tips to cyclists in the area.
- + Signature events like Bike to Work Day, Bike to School Day, and Bike Month celebrations encourage participation.
- + Family-friendly rides, Open Streets events, and mayor-led rides normalize bicycling and show its social, community-building value.



Evaluation and Planning provide the tools to measure progress, identify gaps, and guide investment. Miami-Dade continually uses data and community feedback to improve safety and accessibility.

- + Crash data and community surveys identify priority corridors for safety upgrades.
- + The Vision Zero Framework guides efforts to lower speeds, improve crossings, and redesign intersections.
- + Partnerships with law enforcement include ticket diversion programs that provide driver education about bicyclist safety.
- + Miami-Dade's 311 reporting system enables residents to report roadway issues, including bicycle and pedestrian hazards.
- + Bicycle counts are used to monitor ridership trends and track progress



Equity and Accessibility ensure bicycling is an option for everyone, not just a few. Miami-Dade puts inclusion at the center of its planning, with special focus on communities where biking is a lifeline.

- + Projects are prioritized in underserved neighborhoods, where residents are more likely to depend on biking and transit.
- + Outreach materials are available in multiple languages and designed to reflect the County's demographic diversity.
- + Facility standards include wider lanes, reduced barriers, and accommodations for non-standard cycles.
- + Community engagement processes invite voices from underserved neighborhoods into the decision-making process.

Through these strategies, Miami-Dade's application demonstrates measurable progress and a clear commitment to advancing bicycle efforts in the County. **Figure 5** contains a series of photographs highlighting various efforts throughout the County.

Figure 5: Collage of photos highlighting various efforts throughout the County, including: infrastructure improvements with the construction of bike lanes in the Underline; education initiatives in K-12 schools; encouragement events like Bike305's Bike to Work-Day; and the County's commitment to equity and accessibility by offering hand cycle courses.



Next Steps and Path Forward

This effort aimed to achieve two goals: first, to renew Miami - Dade County's Bicycle Friendly Community designation; and second, to encourage a broader pipeline of applications from municipalities, universities, and businesses across the County.

1. Renewal of the County's Application

On June 25, 2025, the Miami-Dade TPO submitted the County's renewal application to the League of American Bicyclists. The application highlights progress in engineering, education, encouragement, enforcement, and equity, and reflects the County's commitment to advancing bicycle friendliness. The League is expected to announce Miami-Dade's designation status in December 2025. So, looking ahead, the County must continue strengthening its programs and investments in preparation for the *next* renewal cycle.

2. Building a Pipeline of Applications

The workshop and outreach process generated interest across the region, with only the University of Miami submitting an application in 2025. Several municipalities and one entity, including Miami Beach, Pinecrest, South Miami, and the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, have committed to pursuing designations in the 2026 cycle. Others, such as Doral, Florida International University, Hialeah, Homestead, Miami, and Miami Lakes, expressed interest but faced obstacles to participation.

Key barriers identified included staffing shortages, competing local priorities, and the timing of ongoing planning initiatives. These challenges highlight that while awareness of the program is growing, sustained engagement and technical support are essential to help municipalities and institutions follow through.

The 2025 cycle underscored several lessons:

- + Pursuing a designation requires early leadership engagement and at least six months of preparation.
- + Continuous technical assistance lowers barriers for entities with limited staff.
- + Trusted local networks, such as chambers of commerce, business districts, and municipal associations, can be effective local messengers.
- + Entities are most motivated when designation is framed not only as recognition, but as a commitment to future progress.

As the TPO reflects on the 2025 cycle, the broader takeaway is clear: the TPO has built meaningful momentum, and sustaining and expanding it will require a more intentional, coordinated approach. The interest generated through this effort shows that communities are willing to engage when support is accessible and the benefits are tangible. At the same time, the challenges encountered underscore the need for a structured framework that guides jurisdictions from initial interest to successful application.

These insights set the stage for a strategic, long-term pathway that strengthens regional consistency, supports local capacity, and positions more communities to pursue BFA designations with confidence.

Lessons Learned and the Path Forward

If the TPO wishes to broaden Miami-Dade's participation in the BFA program, it must build on these lessons. A Strategic Engagement Plan would formalize outreach and provide a structured roadmap for expanding participation. The proposed plan has a five-pronged approach, as illustrated in **Figure 6**, and includes:

- 1. Initial Messaging and Goal Setting** – Establish a countywide participation network, clarify incentives, and frame bicycle friendliness as part of Miami-Dade's multimodal and safety agenda.
- 2. Document Preparation and Tools** – Build on the Getting Started Toolkits by creating a centralized resource hub to simplify the application process.
- 3. Engagement, Partnerships, and Collaboration** – Actively engage municipalities and partner with business chambers to reach wider audiences.
- 4. Continuous Technical Assistance** – Offer regular technical sessions, application clinics, and one-on-one consultations to lower barriers for applicants.
- 5. Recognition and Visibility Program** – Celebrate designated entities through ceremonial recognition and public-facing digital campaigns to reinforce the value of participation.

By implementing this five-pronged strategy, the TPO can transform the BFA program in Miami-Dade from an application renewal effort into a countywide movement, embedding bicycle friendliness into the fabric of local governments, institutions, and businesses.

Overview of a Strategic Engagement Plan for future BFA efforts:

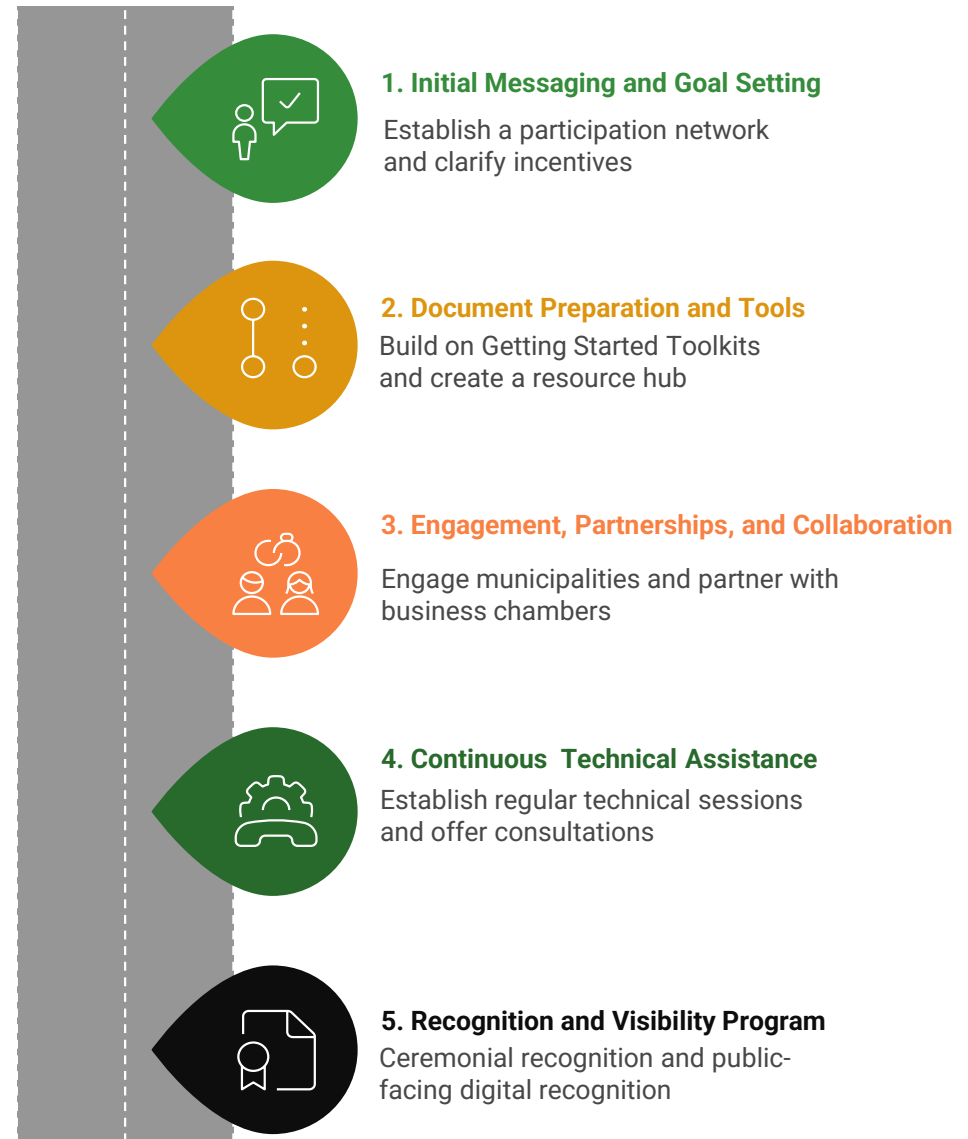


Figure 6: Strategic Engagement Plan Framework for Future BFA Efforts