

Bike Immersion Program

The Palm Beach TPA Executive Director, along with Governing Board members Commissioner Christy Fox and Mayor Michael Napoleone, participated in a Bike Immersion Program to the Netherlands from May 20 - 23, 2024. Elected officials, city and county staff, and engineers from Miami-Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties attended this program hosted by the Miami-Dade TPO and Dutch Cycling Embassy.

Participants were able to experience Dutch cycling infrastructure firsthand, known around the world for its popularity and safety.



Next Steps



The TPA will continue to collaborate with the Dutch Cycling Embassy, Miami-Dade TPO, Broward MPO and transportation partners across South Florida to prioritize safe bicycle infrastructure. This includes working with Tri-Rail to create a bicycle passenger rail access plan.



The 2025 Safe Streets Summit will be held in Palm Beach County and the TPA has requested the Dutch Cycling Embassy speak at this regional conference, with the goal of creating local conversation and action around implementing change.



The TPA will continue to promote livable communities and bicycle friendly designations as well as Complete Streets, Vision Zero initiatives, and other related actions among local municipalities.

Key Takeaways

Creating Cycling Communities



Investing in cycling infrastructure is the first step to creating change. Dedicating funding to protected and dedicated bicycle lanes and paths, prioritizing bicyclists as travelers and encouraging cycling as a safe and effective mode of transportation can shift mindsets. Traffic calming measures like roundabouts, raised

intersections and bulb-outs will support bicycling infrastructure, improving safety for pedestrians as well. The Dutch have spent the last 50 years retrofitting their car-oriented transportation system to create multimodal networks that ultimately create happier and healthier communities.



Participants visited four cities during the Bike Immersion Program. This included Den Haag, Rotterdam, Utrecht and Houten. Each city showed real-life application of lane repurposing and intersection redesign to prioritize bicyclists and pedestrians, multimodal traffic signals, bicycle parking, traffic calming, curb management and developed trail networks.



Bike Immersion Program Group



Palm Beach TPA Executive Director, Valerie Neilson, with elected officials and transportation leaders alongside Dutch leaders

Historical Context

“Stop de Kindermoord” (Stop the Child Murder) started in the 1970s in the Netherlands when traffic-related fatalities were rising. This grassroots effort advocated for safer streets and better infrastructure to protect vulnerable road users. This led to the development of dedicated cycle highways connecting cities and towns and traffic calming measures. The Dutch government prioritized sustainable and active transportation, leading to the world-renowned cycling culture that is known today.