

2024 Bike Immersion Program Summary

From May 20–23, 2024, Palm Beach TPA Executive Director, along with Governing Board members Commissioner Christy Fox and Mayor Michael Napoleone, participated in the Dutch Cycling Embassy Bike Immersion Program, organized by the Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization (TPO). They joined elected officials and transportation leaders from across South Florida to experience the Netherlands' renowned cycling infrastructure firsthand and explore international best practices for developing safe, efficient, and integrated multimodal transportation systems that serve users of all ages and abilities.



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.



Bike Immersion Program Group



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



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.

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.