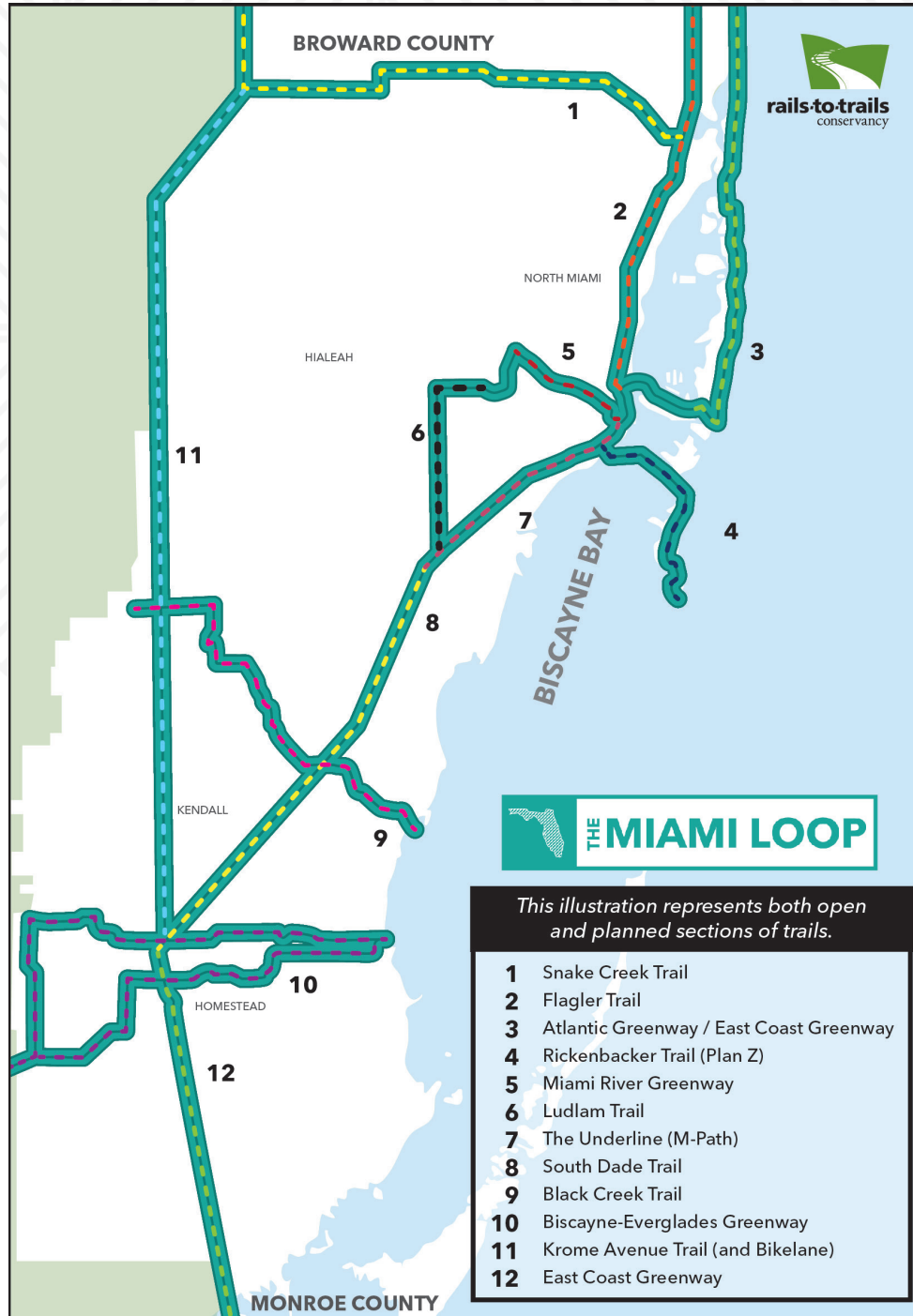


COLLABORATIVE INFLUENCE

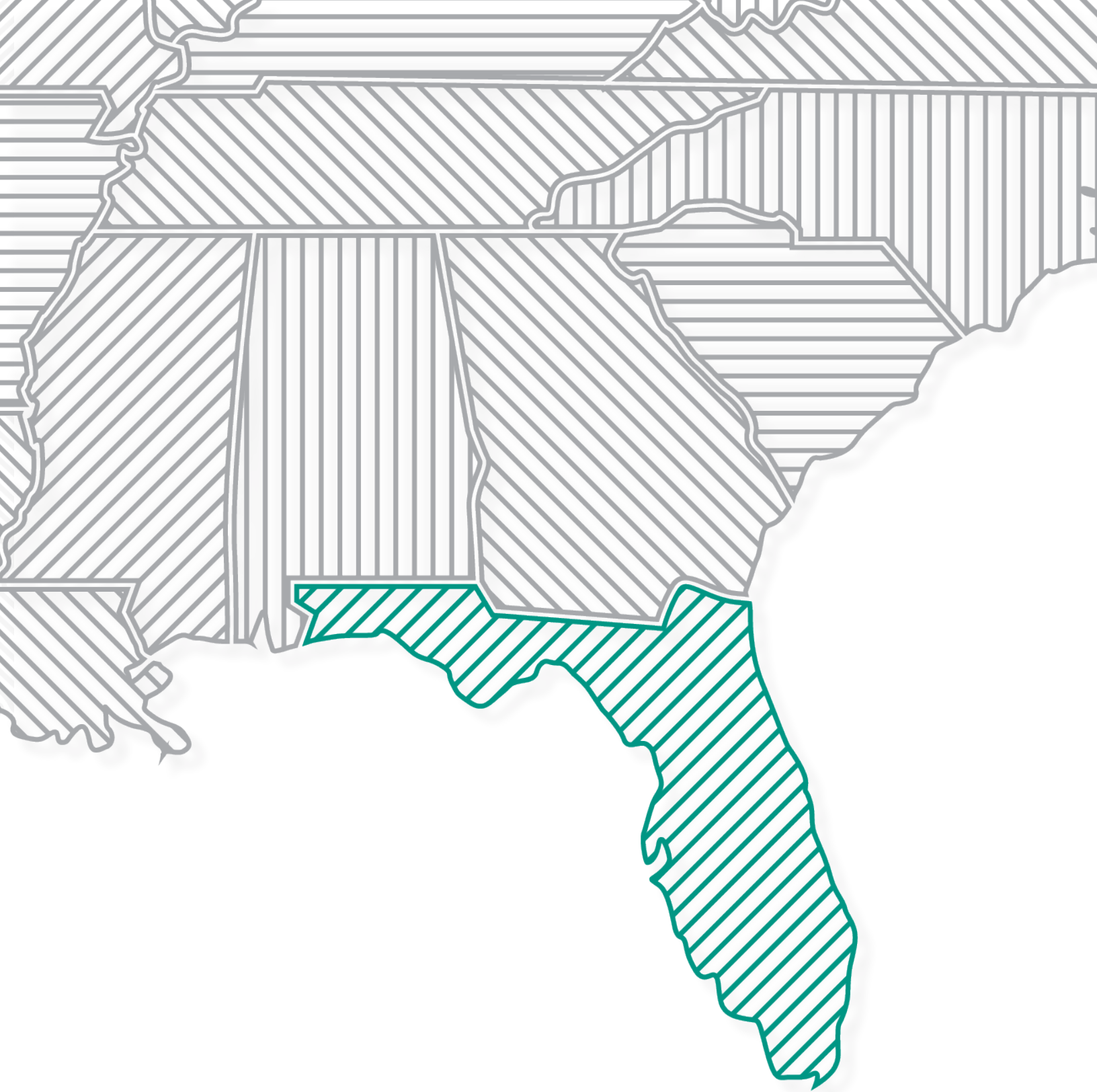
The Miami LOOP partner community includes a growing collection of trail groups, local governments, foundations, health-care providers, bike and pedestrian advocacy organizations and private developers.

By working together, the collaborative will amplify public support for this vision and leverage major sources of funding to bring the vision to reality.



GET IN THE LOOP

Ken Bryan
Florida Field Office
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Phone: 850.942.2379
Email: ken@railstotrails.org



THE MIAMI LOOP

A 225-mile trail vision to expand transportation options, make biking and walking safer and more equitable, strengthen the economy, reduce the area's carbon footprint, and improve health and wellness across Miami-Dade County

WHAT WILL THE MIAMI LOOP DO FOR THE REGION?



EXPANDING SMART TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Trail networks like the Miami LOOP create the infrastructure that encourages and enables people to walk and bike as part of their daily lives.

In Florida, bicycle commuting is on the rise. Since 2005, it has increased by nearly 60 percent,¹ which makes sense; nearly one half of all trips we make are within 3 miles—an easy biking distance.² Despite this rise, however, Miami still ranks 30th on the list of top cities in the U.S. for bike commuting, and rates of walking and biking haven't increased in the past few years.³

According to the Florida Department of Transportation, people are more likely to shift from driving to bicycling if they feel safer and more comfortable in their environment.⁴ The Miami LOOP will create safe, seamless transportation connections to communities, public transit, health-care facilities, schools, parks and the many treasured cultural institutions around the region—greatly expanding walking and biking options for residents and visitors.



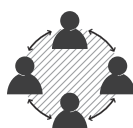
STRENGTHENING THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

Connected trail systems fuel regional tourism, bringing new dollars into the community.

The region's beaches, downtown area and well-known national parks—including Everglades and Biscayne—are some of the most popular tourist attractions in the world. Unfortunately, they're not easy to get to by any mode other than a car.

By connecting key trail corridors, the Miami LOOP will amplify tourism through the creation of "linked visitor experiences" and a regionwide cultural identity—which has the potential to generate trailside businesses, a stronger bicycling economy and new commercial opportunities.

Take, for example, the economic potential of completing The Underline—a key Miami LOOP corridor: \$48 million in economic output from operations annually, \$6-10 million in annual incremental tax revenues, and 1,000 construction-related and 400 permanent jobs.⁵



MAKING ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION SAFER AND MORE EQUITABLE

Transportation disparities exist—including in the distribution of trail and active transportation networks, impacting the safety of the more than 20 percent of Miamians without access to a car.⁶

The Miami-Dade region is one of the most auto-dependent in the country—and one of the nation's least safe for bikers and pedestrians. Despite the emphasis on a car culture, thousands of people in the region do not—or cannot afford to—own cars.

Smart investments in the region's trail system, like that which are proposed in the Miami LOOP plan, will fill small, targeted gaps in the area's biking and walking routes. This vision will create a seamless system connecting trail, biking and walking infrastructure with transit hubs and points of interest.

This vision is accessible to everyone who lives and visits the region. What's more, there is political will to make this vision a reality. Florida legislators have prioritized the development of infrastructure that makes day-to-day travel safer for walkers and bikers and combats the area's historically high bicyclist and pedestrian fatality rates.

¹ Where We Ride: Analysis of bicycle commuting in American cities, League of American Cyclists (2014)

² Safe Routes to Everywhere: Building Healthy Places for Healthy People Through Active Transportation Networks, Partnership for Active Transportation, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

³ Community Trends in Florida, Florida Department of Transportation (2016)

⁴ Conserve by Bicycle Program Study, Florida Department of Transportation (2007)



A REDUCED CARBON FOOTPRINT

Studies show the social and environmental benefits of green infrastructure and open space are strongest when green spaces are connected—like the connections that can come from a trail network.⁷

The Miami LOOP will play a role in the ambitious plan Florida has put forth to decrease carbon emissions and combat climate change.

Miami-Dade County estimates that two key projects in the network—The Underline and the Ludlam Trail—will result in nearly 8 million vehicle miles avoided annually. This results in upwards of 119 million avoided miles over 15 years—nearly the average distance from Earth to Mars.



A HEALTHIER, HAPPIER COMMUNITY

When people have safe places to walk within 10 minutes of their home, they are one and a half times more likely to meet the recommended activity levels than those who don't.⁸

Research shows that some of the happiest places on the planet are those where people have safe, balanced transportation options for transportation, recreation and those all-important connections to nature.⁹

COMPLETING THE LOOP

APPROXIMATELY 54 PERCENT OF THE NETWORK IS ALREADY COMPLETE, AND NEARLY 86 PERCENT OF THE LOOP'S PROPOSED CORRIDORS ARE PUBLICLY OWNED.

The completion of the Miami LOOP is being realized through the following phases:

- **Identifying opportunities to build new trail infrastructure.** Using RTC's trail modeling tools, project partners have identified the optimal corridors to build new trail segments, bike lanes and pedestrian walkways to ensure equitable access and to best serve the most people in each of the surrounding communities.
- **Filling in gaps.** A comprehensive process will be developed for prioritizing the filling of key gaps between primary trail corridors of the LOOP, including: 1) engaging communities in the project footprint, 2) collaborating with partners to identify and implement next steps, 3) creating a solid funding and construction plan.
- **Building a regional team.** Miami-Dade's transportation needs are big, and a coordinated effort is required to address them. RTC is working closely with local communities, leaders, transportation and trail advocates to create a strong team to give voice to and build support for each of the LOOP components.
- **LOOP investment strategy.** RTC and project partners are working collaboratively to develop and implement a multiyear strategy to secure project funding—and to increase the number of funding sources available to projects in the Miami LOOP footprint.

T-MAP

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's T-MAP (Trail Modeling & Assessment Platform) tool was designed by trail experts to measure and analyze the demand for, and potential health and transportation benefits of, proposed biking and walking routes. **Learn more:** railstotrails.org/TMAP.

⁵ Miami Underline Economic Impact Study (2016)

⁶ Census Bureau's 2010-2013 American Community Survey

⁷ City Parks Forum Briefing Papers, Green Infrastructure (2007)

⁸ Places to Walk: Convenience and Regular Physical Activity, American Journal of Public Health (2003)

⁹ Thrive: Finding Happiness the Blue Zones Way, Dan Buettner (2011)