



# Bloomberg Initiative for Cycling Infrastructure

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Program Description



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# Summary

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# Program Overview

## I. What is BICI?

The Global Designing Cities Initiative (GDCI) and Bloomberg Philanthropies are proud to launch the next round of the Bloomberg Initiative for Cycling Infrastructure (BICI), the competitive grant program that accelerates delivery of ambitious projects for safe cycling infrastructure in cities around the world.

Cities thrive when they provide safe, healthy, and sustainable transportation options. This program was founded upon the belief that when cities are safer for cyclists, they are safer for everyone.

The initiative was originally launched in 2022. The first round of selected cities received technical assistance from GDCI on project development, cycling facility design, data collection, and resident engagement through tailored training, peer-to-peer sessions, and sharing of global best practices. After three years, the program has delivered over 200 miles of safe and accessible cycle facilities, while preventing 8,000 crashes and related injuries.

## II. What is the Opportunity?

In partnership with leading cycling experts, the initiative will award top-of-the-line technical assistance, training, and peer networking to up to 25 finalists to accelerate the delivery of safe cycling infrastructure, creating street designs that protect vulnerable road users, support safer speeds, and put people first. Upon completion of the initial phase, 10 winning cities will advance to a second phase of technical assistance, when they will also receive \$400,000 each to help bring their projects to life.

### Phase 1: BICI Academy (4 months)

Following a global competition, up to 25 cities will be selected, with the help of an international panel of experts, for the first phase of the program. These cities will participate in the first-ever BICI Academy, an intensive course designed to help city teams build safe, comfortable cycling streets for everyone, regardless of age, ability, or background. Cities can expect support from GDCI in the form of world-class technical support, lessons from real-life best-practice cycling projects, and mentorship from leading global cycling cities. **City teams will be equipped with the tools, resources, and inspiration to apply to their local contexts while shaping strong proposals for the second phase of the competition.** The selected city teams will be expected to

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dedicate at least **2 hours per week** to a combination of training sessions, peer networking, and project development activities.

As part of the BICI Academy, each city will develop the conceptual projects from their original applications into more refined, realistic proposals to submit for the second phase, indicating the budget commitment from existing city funds.

### **Phase 2: Technical Assistance and Grant Award (36 months)**

Based on the refined project proposals submitted at the end of the first phase, 10 winning cities will receive dedicated technical assistance from GDCI and \$400,000 USD each in funding to bring their projects to life over a three-year partnership.

The tailored technical assistance will support cities through every phase of the process, from community engagement, design, and implementation to project evaluation and documentation. This includes capacity-building sessions, peer networking opportunities with fellow BICI cities, and access to experts from leading cycling cities worldwide.

City teams are expected to dedicate at least **one hour per week** to training sessions, peer networking, and project design and implementation activities. To ensure ongoing leadership engagement, at least **one meeting per year** will be held between GDCI and the mayor or equivalent to discuss project progress.

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### **III. Who Should Apply?**

BICI is designed for cities with more than 100,000 residents who can demonstrate a clear commitment, political will, and capacity to implement transformative cycling infrastructure that improves road safety and the quality of life for local communities.

Priority will be given to applications from cities that want to:

- **Develop a strong vision for cycling:** Demonstrate a clear vision and strong political dedication to improving and expanding their safer cycle networks in partnership with the community and the Initiative (BICI).
- **Reimagine their street space:** Dramatically reimagine infrastructure to reclaim and repurpose existing street space dedicated to private vehicles, enhancing existing facilities or creating new ones that put cyclists first and improve safety for all.
- **Expand their cycle networks:** Create safe, comfortable, and connected networks that allow people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds to cycle.
- **Improve safety:** Demonstrate safety improvements and community support through project engagement and evaluation.

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- **Introduce innovative practices:** Promote a shift in practice that could include new designs, materials, community engagement practices, and/or implementation methods to make cycling networks safer, easier to build, and encourage more and new people to ride.
- **Act as lighthouse cities:** Show what's possible by bringing world-class cycling infrastructure to regions that currently lack it

The most successful proposals will feature interdisciplinary city teams and partnerships that are open and eager to learn more about how they can further improve their current approaches. Cities will need to demonstrate a readiness to advance their design and delivery practices to improve safety, protection, and overall quality. Transforming streets requires the involvement of many stakeholders, deep political courage, and community support. By bringing together different city agencies, community members, and resources in innovative ways, these projects will inform future programs and policies that foster long-term, systemic change.

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## IV. Program Timeline

The current round of BICI was announced at Bloomberg CityLab in Madrid (Apr 28, 2026).

Applications will open on World Bicycle Day (June 3, 2026).

Submissions will be accepted on a rolling basis from June 3rd, 2026, to September 14th, 2026 via an application portal on the [BICI landing page of the GDCI website](#).

The 25 finalists will be announced in early 2027. Formal technical assistance and other program support, including opportunities to convene and connect with other winning cities, will begin with the BICI Academy in the first quarter of 2027. The 10 winning cities will be selected from the wider cohort later in 2027 and will continue to receive technical assistance and grant funding for up to 3 years through 2030.

# Application Questions

## Welcome to the BICI Phase 2 Application!

Thank you for your interest in the Bloomberg Initiative for Cycling Infrastructure. BICI supports cities around the world in delivering safe, comfortable, and connected cycling infrastructure, and we are excited to learn about your city's vision and ambition.

Before you begin, we recommend reading the Program Overview [Link to Program Overview] to understand what we are looking for and what the program offers. This will help you prepare a strong application.

### How long will it take?

This application takes approximately 5 hours to complete. You can use the "Save as draft" button to work at your own pace and return to edit or add information at any time before the deadline. We recommend reviewing all sections before you start, as some will need input from colleagues or documents prepared in advance. Here are the sections that need some preparation beforehand:

### The questions are listed in the Program Overview ↗

- Section A: Mobility and road safety data
- Section B: Maps, photos, or diagrams of your project idea
- Section C: Cycling funding figures of the last three years
- Section D: A signed letter of support from your City Leader

**Language:** Please complete the application in English. Note that word limits (where stated) are maximums and not requirements. Please write as much or as little as you need to answer each question clearly.

**Questions:** If you have questions as you work on this application, please check our FAQs document ↗ for guidance. If you do not find the answer you are looking for, you can also reach out to us at [bici@gdci.global](mailto:bici@gdci.global).

**Data use:** By submitting this application, you confirm that you grant GDCI permission to use the information you provide for the purpose of evaluating your proposal and for research aimed at helping cities implement better cycling infrastructure. Data will be kept confidential, used only for the purposes stated above, and any findings will be presented in aggregated and anonymous form.

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### Registration

Thank you for taking the time to share your city's cycling vision and ambition. We look forward to reading your application!

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Please provide the name and contact details of the person who will lead this project within your city if your application is selected.

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### Section A. Application Profile

Let us know who prepared this application, and begin by introducing us to your city.

#### Team

##### 1. Lead contact

- **First Name** [Short Text]
- **Last Name** [Short Text]
- **Email Address** [Short Text]
- **Title** [Short Text]
- **Department** [Short Text]
- **Role in this project** [Short text]
- **Years of experience (in this role or similar)** [#]

##### 2. Team members

Please list two additional team members involved in this application who would actively participate in the BICI Academy if selected. A strong team should reflect cross-departmental representation, diverse seniority levels, and gender balance.

- **Team member information** (repeats for each team member)
  - **First Name** [Short text]
  - **Last Name** [Short text]
  - **Email Address** [Short text]
  - **Title** [Short text]
  - **Department** [Short text]
  - **Role in this project** [Short text]
  - **Years of experience (in this role or similar)** [#]

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## Leadership

### 3. Mayor or Equivalent City Leader

- First Name [Short text]
- Last Name [Short text]
- Title [Short text]
- Email Address [Short text]
- What is your City Leader's authority over streets, mobility, and public space in your city? (e.g., full authority, shared authority, and limited authority) [Text, 35 words max]
- When does your City Leader's current term end? [Date field - Month/Year]
- Are they eligible for re-election or reappointment? [Multiple choice, select one]
  - Yes
  - No
  - Not applicable

## Geographic information

### 4. City or Administrative Entity Name or equivalent (e.g., city, town, metropolitan authority, or other local government) [Short text]

### 5. Country [Pre-populated dropdown]

### 6. Continent [Multiple choice, select one]

- Americas
- Africa
- Europe
- Asia
- Oceania

### 7. Which best describes your city's administrative structure? [Multiple choice, select one]

- Independent city or municipality (i.e., not part of a larger metropolitan authority)
- City within a metropolitan area
- Borough, district, or equivalent local subdivision within a larger city
- Province, county, or region with city-level jurisdiction over urban streets and mobility
- Other (please specify) [Short text, optional]

### 8. Administrative entity or equivalent population [Short text]

### Mobility and Infrastructure Information

The following information will be used to benchmark applications. Where data is not available, please indicate so.

#### 9. Cycle Network: How long is your existing cycle network?

Please enter the total length of your cycle network, then break it down by type. The breakdown should add up to the total. Please provide figures in km. If your city does not yet have a cycle network, please enter 0 in all fields.

- Total: [# km]
  - Physically protected facilities (e.g., cycle tracks separated from motorized vehicles by a barrier or curb): [# km]
  - Unprotected facilities (e.g., painted cycle lanes): [# km]
  - Shared facilities (e.g., shared paths or streets used by both cyclists and motorized traffic or pedestrians): [# km]

**10. Mode Share: What percentage of trips in your city are made by each mode?** Please provide figures for all fields. If data is not available for a specific field, please enter N/A.

- Walking: [# %]
- Cycling: [# %]
- Transit (e.g., buses, rail, minibusses, or other shared transport vehicles): [# %]
- Automobile / Car: [# %]
- Motorized Two and Three Wheelers (e.g., motorcycles, tuk-tuks, auto-rickshaws): [# %]
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_ [# %]
- What is the source of this data, and in what year was it collected? [Short text]
- If your city uses a different breakdown, please share it here. [Short text, optional]

**11. Road Safety: What is the current rate of traffic fatalities and serious injuries per 100,000 inhabitants, broken down by mode in your city?** Please provide figures where available. If data is not available for a specific field, please enter N/A.

- Pedestrians: [#]
- Cyclists: [#]
- All road users: [#]
- In what year was this data collected? [Numeric field or pre-populated dropdown]

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## Section B. Cycling Vision, Ambition, and Innovation


This section is the heart of your application. We want to understand your city's vision for cycling, the challenges you want to solve, and the project idea you believe could make a real difference. You can be honest - if your city is just starting on its cycling journey, you do not need to have all the answers yet!

### Cycling Vision

**1. What is your city's long-term vision for cycling, and how do you hope it will look in 20 years?** [Text, 200 words]

**2. What specific challenge or gap are you trying to address, and what do you want to achieve?** [Text, 150 words]

**3. How does your cycling vision support the city's vision for road safety and broader mobility goals?** [Text, 150 words]


 Please share any existing plans, policies, or strategies referred to in your answer that support your vision (Format: PDF) (*e.g., cycling plans, mobility strategies, city masterplans, public health strategies, street resilience plans, sustainable development frameworks*) [Multiple file upload, optional]

### Project Idea


#### 4. Pitch

- What is your project idea? (*Briefly describe the project you are proposing.*) [Text, 200 words]
- How does your project idea help achieve your vision and address the challenge or gap you identified? [Text, 150 words]
- What specific road safety benefits will this project deliver, particularly for vulnerable road users? Please include any relevant local data to support your answer. [Text, 150 words]
- What broader benefits do you expect this project to contribute to your community? (*e.g., public health, air quality, accessibility, economic or environmental sustainability, social equity*). Please include any relevant local data to support your answer. [Text, 150 words]

### 5. Potential location

- Which areas of your city are you considering for this project, and why?  
[Text, 150 words] In your response, please address:
    - Which neighborhoods, boroughs, or districts are you considering?
    - Why these areas? (*e.g., high need, existing demand, community support*)
-  Please share a map or images illustrating the areas you are considering (Format: PDF/KML) [File upload]

### 6. Spatial approach

- What is the spatial focus of your project? [Multiple choice, select all that apply]
    - Streets (*short distance connection/few blocks*)
    - Corridors (*eg., long-distance connections/a connected route across several streets*)
    - Network missing links or gaps/connections  
Intersections
    - Neighborhood scale or area-wide intervention
    - Other (*please specify*) [Short text, optional]
  - What type of infrastructure are you envisioning for the project [Multiple choice, select all that apply]
    - Protected cycle tracks
    - Unprotected cycle lanes
    - Cycle streets (*streets where cyclists have priority over motorized vehicles*)
    - Traffic calming
    - Protected intersections
    - Advisory cycle lanes (*lanes that motorized vehicles can use when no cyclists are present*)
    - Other (*please specify*) [Short text, optional]
-  Share any references, diagrams, or examples illustrating your project idea (Format: PDF) [File upload, optional]

### 7. Challenging the status quo

Every city has a unique context, and the best solutions often come from trying new approaches. We want to hear what makes your proposal different.

- What makes your proposal unique and sets it apart from how cycling infrastructure has been planned and delivered in your city before? (*e.g., new design approaches, materials, community engagement methods, implementation processes, or government coordination*) [Text, 150 words]

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## Section C. Project Plan and Capacity to Deliver


This section helps us understand how your city plans and delivers projects, and the resources and capacity you have available.

### Implementation Process

#### 1. Which agencies or departments are involved in the process of planning, designing, and delivering cycling infrastructure and street transformations?

- Agency / Department 1 [Short text] (required)
- Agency / Department 2 [Short text] (required)
- Agency / Department 3 [Short text] (required)
- Agency / Department 4 [Short text] (optional)
- Agency / Department 5 [Short text] (optional)

#### 2. How does your city typically plan, design, and deliver a cycling infrastructure project? [Text, 150 words]

 Share an organizational chart or diagram to help us understand your city's structure and process. (Format: PDF) [File upload, optional]

#### 3. Who has decision-making authority at each stage of the process?

- Planning [Short text]
- Budget allocation [Short text]
- Design [Short text]
- Permits and approvals [Short text]
- Delivery [Short text]
- Other [Short text, optional]

#### 4. At which stages do you usually engage the community? [Multiple choice, select all that apply]

- Planning and vision setting
- Design
- Delivery
- Project evaluation
- Other (please specify)

### Current Conditions and Past Experience

#### 5. Please share up to 3 examples of cycling infrastructure or street transformation projects your city has delivered in the last five years.


What was built or changed, when, and what made it successful? Examples could include cycling infrastructure projects, street redesigns, removal or

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reallocation of travel lanes or parking, intersection improvements, school streets, etc. If your city has not delivered any such projects, please write "Not applicable".

- **Project 1** [Text, 100 words]
- **Project 2** [Text, 100 words, optional]
- **Project 3** [Text, 100 words, optional]

 Share any photos, maps, or diagrams of these projects (Format: PDF)  
[File upload, optional]

### 7. What resources and capacity does your city currently have for delivering cycling infrastructure?

- Staff dedicated to cycling or street design (*e.g.*, 2 full-time staff + 1 part-time = 2.5)
  - [#]
- Current expertise [Multiple choice, select all that apply]
  - Street design
  - Urban planning
  - Community engagement
  - Project management
  - Road safety
  - Data and evaluation
  - Other (please specify) [Short text]
- Where do you see your main capacity gaps? [Multiple choice, select all that apply]
  - Street design
  - Urban planning
  - Community engagement
  - Project management
  - Road safety
  - Data and evaluation
  - Other (please specify) [Short text]

### Resources and Funding

**8. How much funding has your city dedicated to active mobility (pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure) in each of the last three years?** Please provide figures for all fields. If data is not available for a specific field, please enter N/A. If your city has not invested in street transformations or cycling infrastructure recently, please enter 0 in all fields

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- 2025 [# USD]
  - 2024 [# USD]
  - 2023 [# USD]

**9. What is the approximate cost of building 1 km of cycling infrastructure in your city?** (Please provide approximate figures in USD) Please provide figures for all fields. If data is not available for a specific field, please enter N/A.

- Physically protected cycle track (e.g., cycle track separated from traffic by a curb or barrier): [# USD]
- Buffered cycle lane (e.g., separated by flex posts or light elements):  
[Numeric input]
- Painted cycle lane: [# USD]

**10. What are the primary sources of funding for cycling infrastructure in your city?** [Multiple choice, select all that apply]

- Municipal budget
- National or federal government
- International grants or loans
- Private sector
- Other (please specify) [Short text]

### Stakeholders

**11. Who are the key people and organizations needed to support and deliver this project?** (e.g., government agencies, community groups, businesses, advocacy organizations) [Text, 150 words]

**12. Have you already engaged any of these stakeholders?** [Multiple choice, select one]

- Yes, we have engaged all of them
- Yes, we have engaged some of them
- No
- If yes or some: Please briefly describe how. [Short text]

**13. Has another organization helped prepare this application?** [Multiple choice, select one]

- Yes, they were actively involved
- Yes, we are formally partnered
- No
- If yes, please provide the name and type of organization. [Short Text]

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### Section D. Leadership and Team

This section helps us understand the political commitment behind this application and the team that would deliver it.

#### Political Leadership

**1. Please share an example of how your city's leaders have actively championed and delivered street or cycling projects that challenge the status quo in the last five years.** (How did their support influence project delivery?) If no such projects have been delivered, please write "Not applicable." [Text, 150 words]

**2. Please attach a letter of support from your City Leader.**

 The letter should describe their commitment to this project and the BICI program, how it connects to their vision for mobility in the city, and how they will champion it if selected.) (Format: PDF) [File upload]

#### Team

**3. Please briefly describe a street design, cycling, or mobility project your team has worked on together. What was the project and what was your team's role?** If only some team members have worked together before, please describe that experience. If your team has not yet worked together on a project, please write "Not applicable." [Text, 150 words]

**4. Does your team have the authority to make decisions about this project?**

[Multiple choice, select one]

- Our team can make most decisions independently
- Some decisions will require approval from leadership
- Most decisions will require approval from leadership
- All decisions will require approval from leadership

**5. How would you describe your team's top priorities for the BICI Academy?**

[Multiple choice, select all that apply]

- We are here to learn and build new capacity
- We have some experience and want to deepen it
- We have strong expertise and want to share and exchange with peers
- Other (please specify) [Short text]

**6. Please confirm that your team is available and committed to participating in the four-month BICI Academy, requiring approximately 6–8 hours per month. As a global program, some sessions may occasionally take place**

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*outside of regular office hours. We will do our best to accommodate different time zones.* [Multiple choice, select one]

- Yes, we confirm our availability and commitment
- We are mostly available, but may have some constraints
- We are unsure at this stage

**7. What excites your city most about joining BICI, and what unique perspective or experience would you like to share with the global cohort of selected cities?** [Text, 150 words]

**You've made it to the end!**

**Thank you, we appreciate the effort your team has put into this application and can't wait to learn more about your city's cycling ambitions!**

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