

MIAMI BIKE DAYS

Miami is top U.S. city in number of cycling days

Miami has now held more car-free, bike-and-stroll days than any other U.S. city, and Sunday will bring one more chance to take to the streets on foot or human-propelled wheels before a summer recess.

The seventh Miami Bike Days since November will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in and around downtown Miami, Brickell and the Miami River.

Sunday's edition features an expanded schedule of activities — including yoga, live bands, strolling jugglers and dance contests at Mary Brickell Village and on the steps of the Dade County Courthouse on Flagler Street, which will be closed to cars.

The prize for the dance-contest winners: Six bikes, courtesy of the Downtown Development Authority. A seventh bike from Mack Cycle and Fitness will be raffled off.

Everything is free and it's not a race or an organized ride, so there is no registra-

tion and no official beginning. For a route map and listing of activities, go to www.bike-miami.com.

Miami Mayor Manny Diaz launched monthly Bike Miami Days in November as a way to promote cycling and walking in the city while showing off the city's gradually resuscitating downtown.

City officials are looking to establish the cycling event as a permanent fixture, inspired by the famed monthly *Ciclovía* in Bogota, Colombia, which draws thousands of people.

Attendance has bounced from as many as 2,000 people to relatively sparse crowds, but planners say momentum has been building as word of the events begins to spread.

Last month's edition, in Coconut Grove, sponsored in part by the Dutch consulate, drew throngs of enthusiastic, orange-clad participants.

Diaz's office promises regular bike days will return in the fall.

— ANDRES VIGLUCCI