

A Citizen's Guide To
Modern Roundabouts

What Is a Roundabout?

A roundabout (as shown in the photo below) is an alternative method of traffic control to traditional signalized intersections. Throughout the United States and the world, roundabouts have been proven to provide safer, more efficient intersections through the concept of free-flowing traffic at reduced speeds.



This brochure has been designed to familiarize residents with the benefits & navigation of roundabouts.

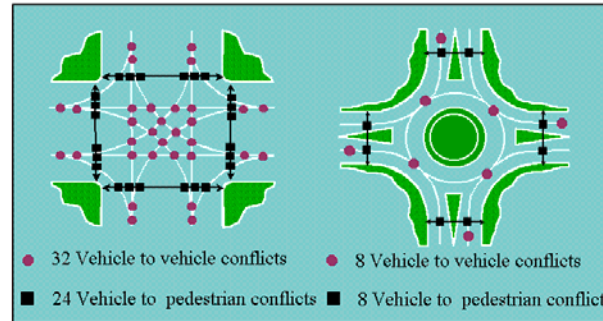
Benefits of a Roundabout

* BETTER TRAFFIC FLOW

On a roundabout, traffic circulates more freely and with less delay because vehicles do not have to stop and wait for a green light. As a result, roundabouts accommodate a greater volume of traffic and eliminate the back-ups caused by vehicles waiting for a left turn.

* INCREASED SAFETY

Roundabouts have been shown to reduce accidents by as much as 75 percent. The reduction in accidents is attributed to slower speeds and a reduced number of conflict points.



* REDUCED COSTS

Roundabouts are more cost-efficient to maintain than intersections with traffic signals.

Driving Roundabouts - Rules of the Road

All vehicles must yield to traffic in side the roundabout, as well as vehicles exiting. Drivers should only enter after sufficient space is available to maneuver safely into the roundabout. Defensive driving is appropriate in all situations.

* EMERGENCY VEHICLES

When emergency vehicles approach always give them the right-of-way. If you have not yet entered the roundabout, pull over to the right allowing emergency vehicles to pass. Never stop while inside the roundabout. Instead, continue to your exit then pull over to the right shoulder of the roadway allowing the emergency vehicle to maneuver around you.

* KEY POINTS

Yield principal – Yield to all traffic circulating within the roundabout before entering is the single most important rule.

Slow down – Modern roundabouts are designed for speeds of 20 miles per hour or less. Drivers should be aware of the posted speed limit signs and slow down to safely enter.

Pedestrians – The roundabout will have cross walks and a refuge island that allows pedestrians to cross both directions of traffic safely.

Bicyclists – Bicyclists should use the pedestrian crosswalk. Only experienced bicyclists should ride through the roundabout.

