

Benefits of Roundabouts

Lives Saved

- Up to a 90% reduction in fatalities
- 76% reduction in injury crashes
- 30-40% reduction in pedestrian crashes
- 75% fewer conflict points than four-way intersections

Money Saved

- No signal equipment to install and repair
- Savings estimated at an average of \$5,000 per year in electricity and maintenance costs
- Service life of a roundabout is 25 years (vs 10-year service life of signal equipment)

Improved Traffic Flow

- 30-50% increase in traffic capacity

Reduction in Pollution and Fuel Use

- Improved traffic flow for intersection that handle a high number of left turns
- Reduced need for storage lanes

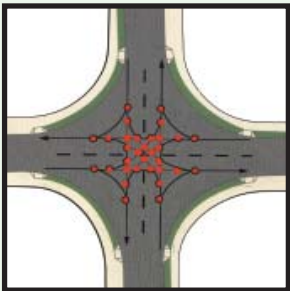
Slower Vehicle Speeds

- Drivers have more time to judge and react to other cars or pedestrians
- Advantageous to older and novice drivers
- Reduces the severity of crashes
- Keeps pedestrians safer

Community Benefits

- Traffic calming
- Aesthetic landscaping

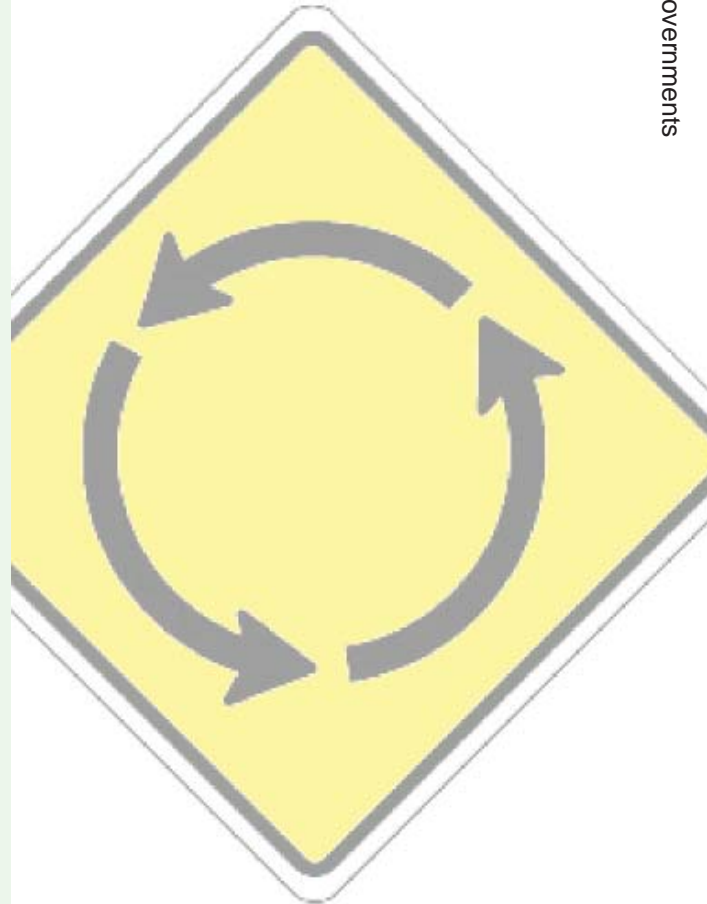
Roundabouts have only 8 conflict points versus a traditional intersection, which has 32 conflict points. Also none of these conflict points are at right angles, decreasing damage and injury costs.



*Traditional intersection:
32 conflict points*



*Roundabout:
8 conflict points*



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Roundabouts

New Tools for Safe Driving



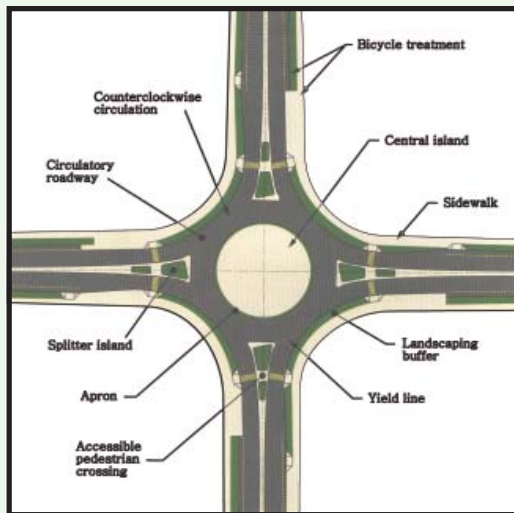
- ◆ Improved Safety
- ◆ Improved Traffic Flow
- ◆ Cost Effective
- ◆ Attractive
- ◆ Reduces Pollution

Michiana Area Council of Governments
Elkhart, Kosciusko, Marshall and St. Joseph Counties

What is a Roundabout?

A modern roundabout is a common form of unsignalized intersection control in use throughout the world. Modern roundabouts maximize safety and minimize traffic delay, while being attractive, cost-effective focal points in neighborhoods.

A roundabout is an intersection having one-way circulation around a center island where entering traffic must yield the right-of-way to circulating traffic.



Existing and Proposed Roundabouts:

Elkhart County

- Dierdorf Road @ Keystone Drive
- Hively Avenue @ 17th Street
- Hively Avenue @ Oakland Avenue

Kosciusko County

- Old US 30 @ CR 350 W
- Old US 30 @ Zimmer Road
- Old US 30 @ Fox Farm Road

Marshall County

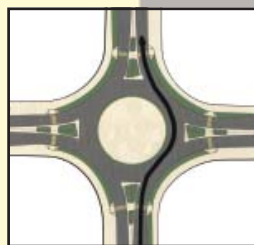
- Pine Road @ Lincoln Highway (considering)

St. Joseph County

- Douglas Road @ Ivy Road
- Fellows Street @ Dean Johnson Boulevard
- Lincolnway West @ Mayflower Road
- Lincolnway West @ South Bend Airport Entrance
- Portage Avenue @ Lathrop Street

How to Drive a Roundabout

A driver should use the normal rules of the road. It is important to be courteous and signal your intentions as you approach and drive through the roundabout. Drivers must be prepared to stop and wait for a sufficient gap in the circulating traffic before entering the roundabout. Vehicles already inside the circulatory roadway have the right-of-way over vehicles entering the circulation.



Through movement

No signal is required for through movement, although it is courteous to signal right at your exit.



Left- or U-turn movement

Signal a left turn on the approach and while in the roundabout. Signal right at your exit.

Use the following precautions when in a roundabout:

- Slow Down - 15 miles per hour is about right for driving in the roundabout
- Yield to pedestrians, bicyclists and vehicles (the yield sign will show you where to yield).
- Look left. Vehicles in the roundabout have the right-of-way. If there is no traffic in the roundabout, don't stop. If traffic is present, wait for an opening and then enter.
- Once in, keep right - a roundabout is a one-way street.
- The circulating car has the right-of-way.
- Proceed with care at your exit. If you miss your exit simply go around again.
- Pedestrians should cross only in the marked crosswalks.

Trucks and Large Vehicles

- ◆ There is an outer portion of the center island of the roundabout that can be driven on. It is designated to allow large trucks, busses, and emergency vehicles to maneuver around the circulating roadway. No other vehicles should drive on the apron.

Pedestrians

- ◆ Cross only at designated crossing locations.
- ◆ Watch for cars; you have the right-of-way, but drivers may not be paying enough attention.
- ◆ The roundabout has a splitter island that can serve as a pedestrian island, which allows you to cross the street one direction of traffic at a time.
- ◆ Do not cross over to the center island in the roundabout.

Bicyclists

- ◆ If you are comfortable riding in traffic, take the lane and circulate as you would in a vehicle.
- ◆ As with motorists, you must wait at the yield line for a sufficient gap in the circulating traffic before entering the roundabout.
- ◆ If you are unsure about using the roundabout, dismount and walk your bike as a pedestrian at the designated crosswalks.

More information on roundabouts can be found by visiting the following resources:

“Roundabouts: An Informational Guide”
published by the Federal Highway Administration
<http://www.tfhrc.gov/safety/00068.htm>

“Kansas Roundabout Guide”
published by Kansas Department of Transportation
http://www.ksdot.org/burtrafficeng/Roundabouts/Roundabout_Guide/KDOTMaster_100803.pdf