

BENEFITS OF A ROUNDABOUT

WHAT IS A ROUNDABOUT?

A roundabout is a circular intersection in which traffic flows counterclockwise around a center island. There are no traffic signals or stop signs in a roundabout.

REDUCE DELAY / INCREASE TRAFFIC FLOW

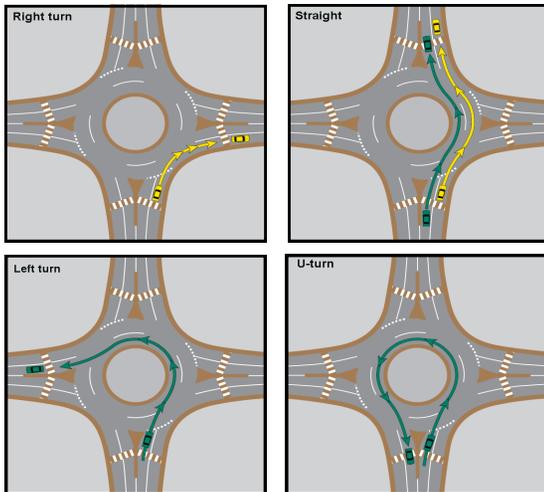
- Roundabouts allow traffic to flow continually through intersections, reducing delay and alleviating congestion
- 30-50% Increase in traffic capacity

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY

- Since traffic is continually moving, air pollution and fuel use decrease (less time spent idling)
- Reduction in noise pollution (less stop and go)

OPERATION COSTS

- Roundabouts are energy efficient and easier to maintain due to the lack of traffic signals
- Roundabouts may require less right of way than traditional intersections (i.e. often less pavement is needed)
- The service life of a roundabout is approximately 25 years vs. 10-20 years for a signalized intersection



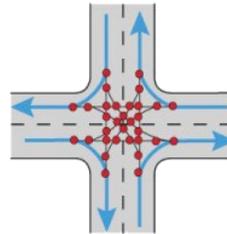
How to navigate a 2-lane roundabout

IMPROVED SAFETY

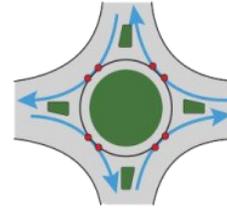
- Modern roundabouts have been proven to reduce injury crashes by 76%, fatalities by 89%, and overall crashes by 35% (see *Figure 1.1*)
- Roundabouts help to calm traffic and reduce crash severity by limiting vehicle speeds to approximately 20 mph
- All vehicles travel in the same direction, never crossing paths which dramatically reduces head-on and high speed right angle collisions
- There are less conflict points in roundabouts than in traditional intersections (see diagram below)



A roundabout is safer than a signalized intersection because it offers slower speeds and fewer conflict points, resulting in fewer and less severe accidents, higher capacity, and environmental benefits.



Traditional Intersection
(32 conflict points)



Roundabout
(8 conflict points)

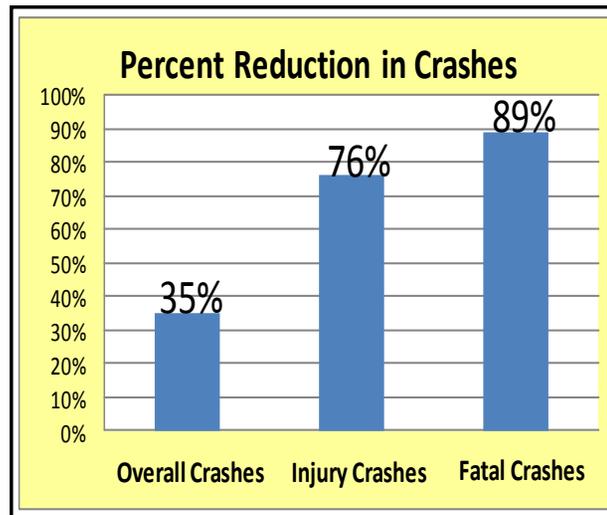


Figure 1.1— Percent Reduction in Crashes. Data from Federal Highway Administration's website

COMMUNITY VALUE

- Quieter operation (less stop and go)
- Functional and aesthetically pleasing

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Tips for safely walking and biking through a roundabout

Walk around the outside; don't cross through the middle



Ride your bike as a vehicle or walk your bike as a pedestrian

Research is ongoing on additional treatments and design considerations to address the needs of visually impaired pedestrians.

Pedestrian Safety Tips