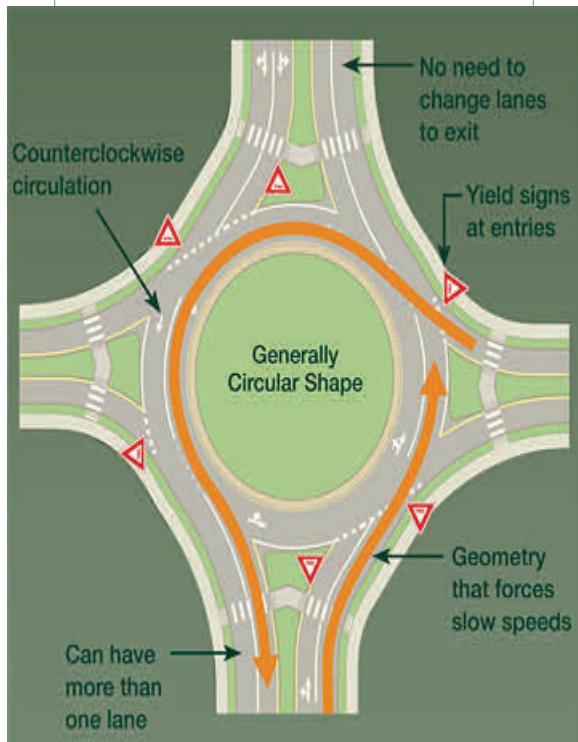


What is a Roundabout?

A roundabout is a circular intersection where entering traffic yields to all vehicles within the circle. Typically, there is a curvature to the roadway which reduces traffic speed.

Modern roundabouts differ from rotaries or other traffic circles. They are smaller than the larger high-speed rotary used in other parts of the country, yet larger than traffic circles used to calm traffic in neighborhoods.

Below is a typical single-lane roundabout.



Graphic Images Source: FHWA.dot.gov

Roundabout Facts

According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), roundabouts can:

Significantly improve traffic safety

Improve operational performance

Provide environmental benefits

Reduce traffic speeds

Improve pedestrian safety

Reduce crash rates:

35% total crashes

75% injury crashes

89% severe crashes with injuries

*Source: Federal Highway Administration Office of Safety. www.fhwa.dot.gov

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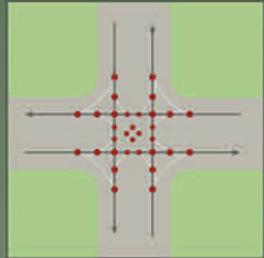
Understanding the Modern Roundabout



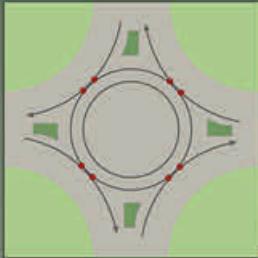
Tallassee Road at Whitehead Road
ACC Transportation & Public Works

Roundabouts are Safe

With roundabouts, head-on and high-speed right angle collisions are virtually eliminated.



[Traditional intersection]



[Roundabout]

● Potential vehicle conflict point

Reduced crashes. The number of possible conflict points between vehicles decreases from **32** at a four-way intersection to just **8** at a roundabout. This reduces the number of potential collisions.

Safer Speeds. When entering a roundabout vehicle speeds are usually below 25 mph. Lower speeds allow shorter braking distances and increased decision making time for drivers.

Increased pedestrian safety. A roundabout can offer a safer environment for pedestrians than a traffic signal. A pedestrian at a roundabout is only needs to make two simple crossings of one-way traffic moving at slow speeds. Pedestrians crossing at a traffic signal must contend with vehicles turning right on green, vehicles turning right on red, and possible vehicles running red lights.

A Roundabout also...

Reduces congestion. There is reduced delay time for vehicles passing through the intersection compared to a traditional intersection.

Reduces air pollution. There are fewer stops and hard accelerations in a roundabout compared to a traditional intersection. Also, there is less time spent idling which leads to fewer emissions and less wasted fuel.

Reduces noise pollution.

Vehicles passing through a roundabout are quieter compared to a traditional intersection.

Reduces long-term costs. A roundabout eliminates electricity and maintenance costs associated with traffic signals, which can amount to approximately \$5,000 per year, per intersection.

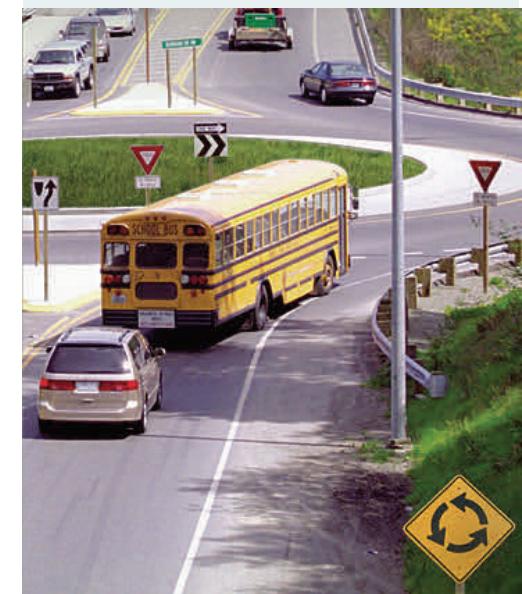
Reduces water runoff. The center island and other unpaved areas nearby a roundabout allows rainwater to permeate green areas, which contributes to healthier local waterways.

Safety. The bottom line.

Roundabouts have proven to be far safer than traditional stop sign or signal-controlled intersections.

Injury crashes have been reduced up to 75% where roundabouts replaced stop signs or signals at intersections, and reduced fatal crashes by more than 90%.

The modern roundabout is one of nine proven life-saving roadway safety strategies, per the Federal Highway Administration.



Original Image by Lee Rodegerts. Altered by FHWA.