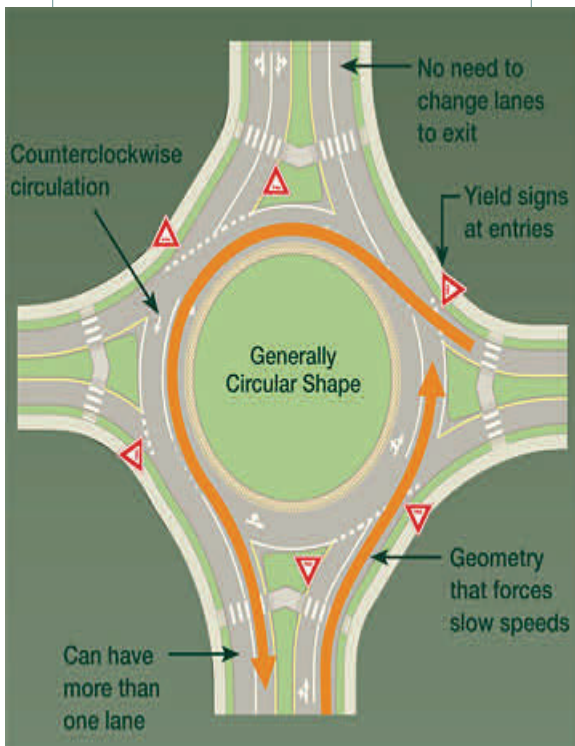


## What is a Roundabout?

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](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov)*

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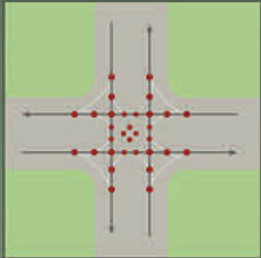
## Understanding the Modern Roundabout



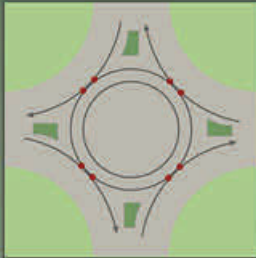
Tallassee Road at Whitehead Road  
ACC Transportation & Public Works

## 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 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.

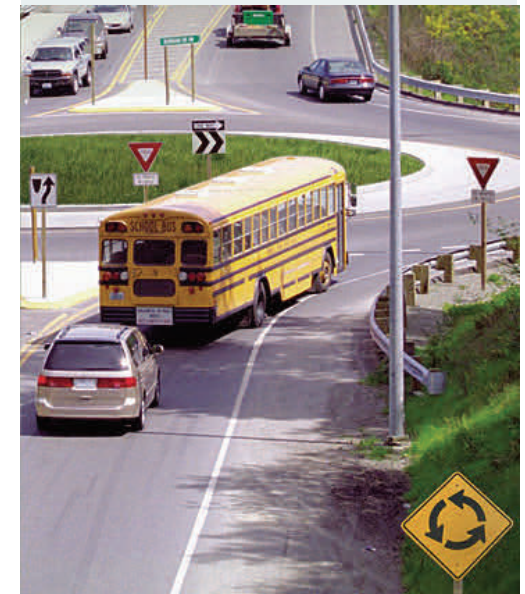
**Reduces water runoff.** The center island and other unpaved areas nearby a roundabout allows rainwater to permeate green areas, which contributes to healthier local waterways.

## 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.