**Roundabouts: A Safer Choice**

**Education is Key.**

Education is vital to the acceptance and success of a roundabout. Navigating a roundabout is easy, but because people can be apprehensive about new things, it's important to educate the public about roundabouts.

There are just a few simple guidelines to remember when driving through a roundabout:

1. **Slow down.**
2. **Enter only when it is safe.** This means there is no oncoming traffic when you enter the roundabout. In a three-lane roundabout, make sure the left lane is clear before entering.
3. **Yield at the entry if oncoming traffic is present.**
4. Stay in your lane within the roundabout and use your right-turn signal to indicate your intention to exit.
5. Always allow a truck to use the full lane allocated to it—don't pass them.
6. Clear the roundabout to allow emergency vehicles to pass.

Visit [safety.fhwa.dot.gov](http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov) to learn more about roundabouts.

**Roundabouts: A Safer Choice**

**What is a roundabout?**

A roundabout is a type of circular intersection with yield control of entering traffic, islands on the approaches, and appropriate roadway curvature to reduce vehicle speeds.

Modern roundabouts are different from rotaries and other traffic circles. For example, roundabouts are typically smaller than the large, high-speed rotaries still in use in some parts of the country. In addition, roundabouts are typically larger than neighborhood traffic circles used on rural roads.

A roundabout has these characteristics:

- Counterclockwise circulation
- Yield signs at entries
- Can have more than one lane
- Generally circular shape
- Deceleration that forces slow speeds
- No need to change lanes to exit

**Why consider a roundabout?**

Compared to other types of intersections, roundabouts have demonstrated safety and other benefits.

**Roundabouts:**

- **Improve safety:**
  - More than 90% reduction in fatalities*  
  - 76% reduction in injuries**  
  - 35% reduction in all crashes**

- Slower speeds are generally safer for pedestrians

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

> **Reduce congestion**
> - Easier during both peak-hours and other times
> - Typically less delay

> **Reduce pollution and fuel use**
> - Fewer stops and hard accelerations, less time idling

> **Save money**
> - Often no signal equipment to install, power, and maintain

> **Smaller roundabouts may require less right-of-way than traditional intersections**
> - Often less pavement needed

> **Complement other common community values**
> - Quiet operation
> - Functional and aesthetically pleasing

**Tips for safety walking and biking through a roundabout**

- Walk around the outside, don't cross through the middle

[Roundabout]

Research is ongoing regarding additional treatments and changes to other types. It is critical that the roundabout is properly marked and signalized in visually restricted conditions.

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