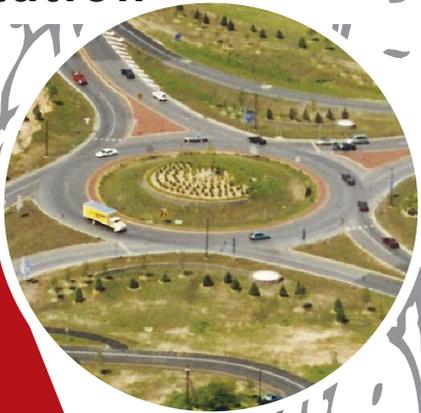


New York State Department of Transportation

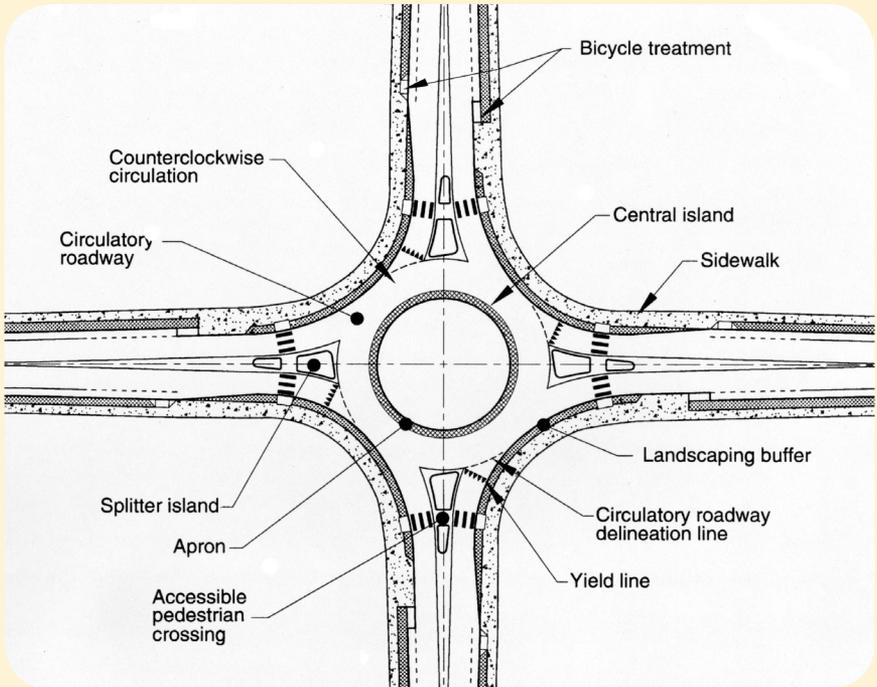


A Citizen's Guide To Roundabouts



WHAT IS A ROUNDABOUT?

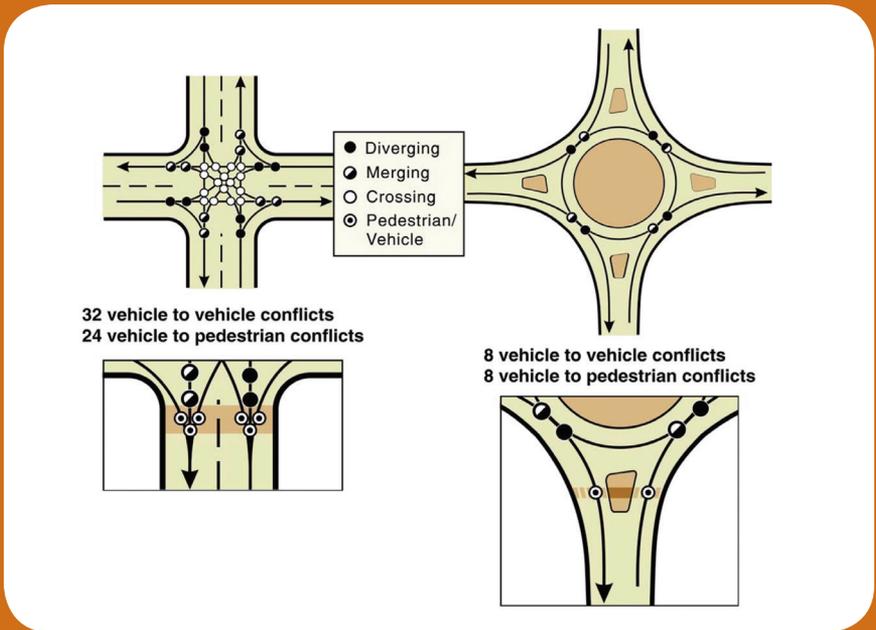
A modern roundabout is an unsignalized circular intersection engineered to maximize safety and minimize traffic delay. Over the last few decades, thousands of roundabouts have been installed in Europe, Australia and other parts of the world. Recently, they have gained support in the United States with states such as Maryland, Colorado, Florida, Washington, and more recently, New York, getting experience with their use and design. Drivers in those states also are becoming comfortable with their use. In the cities and towns where roundabouts have been built, and even where the public has been hesitant about accepting them initially, roundabouts ultimately have been accepted enthusiastically because of the increased safety they provide, along with traffic calming, and aesthetic benefits.



SAFETY AND OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

How can such impressive accident reductions be explained? One reason is that there is a reduction in the number of conflict points within the facility. As the figure below shows, a standard intersection has 32 potential vehicle-to-vehicle conflicts versus 8 for a roundabout. In addition, modern roundabouts are designed such that traffic enters at nearly right angles to the circulating traffic. The merging lanes that characterized traffic circles (and led to confusion over who has the right-of-way) have been eliminated. Third, roundabouts are relatively small, particularly when compared with typical traffic circles. So, traffic speeds are slower, there are more opportunities to enter circulating traffic, and fewer accidents result.

Conflict Point Illustration



Delays are also reduced. In the New York State DOT study (SPR C-01-47, 2002-04), delay data was available for 10 roundabout sites. At those sites, delays on 40 approach roadways were reduced by 50% or more.

NAVIGATING A ROUNDABOUT

Motor Vehicles

Approaching and Entering the Roundabout

- When approaching the roundabout, follow the lane designation signs and choose the proper lane for multi-lane approach roadways, slow down and yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.
- Look to the left. Traffic in the roundabout has the right-of-way.
- Approach the yield line and enter the roundabout when there is an adequate gap in the circulating traffic flow.
- If another car is waiting at the yield line ahead of you, do not stop in the crosswalk. Keep the crosswalk clear for pedestrians.
- Bicyclists are permitted to ride within the roundabout and will be riding in the lane just as other vehicles do. Please do not pass a bicycle in the roundabout.



Exiting the Roundabout

- Once you have entered the roundabout, proceed counter-clockwise to your exit. You now have the right-of-way.
- As you approach your exit, turn on your right turn signal.
- Exit the roundabout, yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk.



Trucks



- Drive on the circulatory roadway, except large trucks and trailers may use the truck apron provided to negotiate the tight turning radius.
- Drive (usually with just the rear wheels) on the raised pavement of the truck apron to navigate more easily.
- Cars should not use the truck apron.

Pedestrians



- Stay on the designated walkways at all times.
- Cross only at the designated crosswalks.
- Never cross to the central island.
- Watch for cars; you have the right-of-way, but your best protection is your own attention.
- Cross the crosswalk one lane at a time, using the splitter island as a refuge area before crossing the next lane.

NAVIGATING A ROUNDABOUT (cont'd.)

Bicyclists



- If you are comfortable riding in traffic, take the lane and circulate like you are a vehicle, making sure you yield to traffic in the circle when entering.
- Ride at the speed of the circular roadway to discourage cars from passing you.
- When you exit the roundabout, use your right hand signal.
- If you are unsure about using the roundabout, dismount and walk your bike as a pedestrian at the designated crosswalks.

For more information, contact the NYSDOT Roundabout Design Section at (518) 485-7503 or by email at roundabouts@dot.ny.gov. The RDS staff are available to answer questions, provide preliminary site review and layout of roundabouts and present a general overview of roundabouts at public forums.





ALL TRAFFIC CIRCULATES
COUNTER CLOCKWISE IN
THE ROUNDABOUT

← ONE WAY

YIELD



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY

**Department of
Transportation**

LOOK TO YOUR LEFT AS YOU
APPROACH THE ROUNDABOUT.
YIELD TO VEHICLES IN THE
ROUNDABOUT, AND WAIT FOR
A GAP BEFORE ENTERING THE
ROUNDABOUT.

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
Commissioner Matthew J. Driscoll

YIELD TO PEDESTRIANS
CROSSWALK