

Elements of a Roundabout

Splitter Islands

- Provided on all approaches to the roundabout
- Designed to deflect and slow vehicles on approach to the roundabout
- Provide refuge for pedestrians crossing one direction of traffic at a time
- Allow for green area and landscaping to enhance intersection aesthetics

Center Island

- Employs small radii, slowing traffic to 15-20 mph within the circle
- Directs all vehicles to counter-clockwise flow and right-turns, eliminating conflicting left-turns and reducing the severity of crashes
- Includes a mountable truck apron of different material to allow maneuvering by oversize vehicles while discouraging use by smaller vehicles
- Allows for added green area, landscaping and runoff infiltration

Pedestrian Crossings

- Set back from yield location to allow drivers to react to pedestrians before merging into the roundabout
- Pedestrians cross one direction of traffic at a time with refuge provided by the splitter islands
- Cyclists can dismount and cross the intersection using the pedestrian crossing or navigate the roundabout as a vehicle

Pavement Marking and Signing

- Clearly define pedestrian crossing and yield locations for drivers
- Specially designed to advise drivers in advance of a roundabout
- Regulates traffic entering the roundabout rather than regulate traffic in the roundabout as common to older traffic circles

What Else Do I Need To Know About Roundabouts?

Emergency Vehicles

Do not enter the roundabout when emergency vehicles are approaching. If you are already in the roundabout, exit immediately and pull to the side. Do not stop in the roundabout!

Large Trucks

The concrete apron is provided around the center island to assist large trucks that may need extra room to negotiate a roundabout. Never drive upon the concrete apron in a passenger car or small truck.

Bicyclists

Bicyclists have the option to ride around the roundabout as a vehicle or dismount and walk as a pedestrian. When riding inside of the roundabout as a vehicle, bicyclists should follow the same rules as motorists. Never overtake a bicyclist riding inside of a roundabout!

Pedestrians

Motorists must yield to pedestrians in the crosswalks or waiting to cross when entering and exiting a roundabout. Be aware that pedestrians have the right-of-way in a roundabout, unlike a conventional signalized intersection.

Prepared By:



Corporate Headquarters:
425 Commerce Drive, Suite 200
Fort Washington, PA 19034
215-283-9444



Finding Your Way Around



A Roundabout



www.mcmtrans.com

What Is A Roundabout?

A roundabout is a circular intersection without traffic signal equipment in which traffic flows continuously around a center island. Roundabouts have been used as an effective method of traffic control in other countries for many years and are gaining popularity in the United States.

What Are The Benefits Of A Roundabout?

A roundabout offers many advantages over a conventional intersection, such as:

- better overall safety performance (1), including:
 - 70 % reduction in injury crashes
 - 90% reduction in fatal crashes
 - 40% reduction in all crashes
- slower vehicle speeds
- more efficient traffic flow
- reduced pollution and fuel use, due to continuous traffic flow
- reduced operating costs
- increased opportunities for aesthetic enhancements

(1) Insurance Institute of Highway Safety



How Do I Drive Through A Roundabout?

Driving through a single-lane roundabout is simple. Approach slowly, yielding to pedestrians in the crosswalk or waiting to cross. Stop at the entrance line and wait for an acceptable gap in traffic. Continue around the roundabout to your intended direction and bear right to exit.

