

BENEFITS OF A ROUNDABOUT

Slower vehicle speeds (generally under 25 mph)

- » Roundabouts are effective at reducing speeds.
- » Reduced speeds are associated with less severe crashes and injuries with an anticipated reduction in fatalities.
- » Less severe crashes enhance safety for motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
- » Motorists have more time to judge and react to other motorists or pedestrians and bicyclists.
- » Advantageous to older and novice motorists.

Efficient traffic flow

- » Yield-control intersections, such as roundabouts, reduce delay by eliminating unnecessary stopping.

Reduction in pollution and fuel use

- » Yield-control intersections, such as roundabouts, often result in reduced time waiting or idling at signalized intersections when no other motorists are nearby, which reduces fuel use and pollution.

Potential money saved

- » No need to power traffic signals for 24 hours per day.
- » No need to maintain traffic signal systems or other traffic detection systems.

Community benefits

- » Traffic calming
- » Aesthetic landscaping

Source: Federal Highway Administration



WHAT IS A ROUNDABOUT?

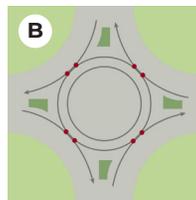
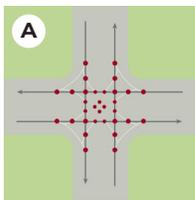
A roundabout is a circular intersection without traffic signal equipment in which traffic flows counterclockwise around a central island where entering traffic has to yield to circulating traffic.

WHY MODERN ROUNDABOUTS?

Caltrans has a vision to eliminate fatalities and serious injuries on California's roadways by 2050 and provide safer outcomes for all communities as stated in our Director's Policy 36 - Road Safety. This vision can be achieved by adopting the Safe System Approach.

In California, 24% of all fatal and serious injury crashes occur at intersections. Under certain circumstances and at appropriate locations, roundabouts have been shown to potentially reduce the number of fatal and severe injury crashes by 82% over a stop-controlled intersection and 78% over a signalized intersection.

Traditional intersections have 32 vehicle and 16 pedestrian conflict points, while single lane roundabouts have only 8 vehicle and 8 pedestrian conflict points. Because there are no vehicle crossing movements in a roundabout, left-turn and right-angle crashes are eliminated.



A. Traditional intersection

B. Roundabout

● Potential vehicle conflict point

Source "2020-2024 Strategic Highway Safety Plan" May 2022 update (California Strategic Highway Safety Plan Report for 2020-2024)

Roundabouts do not work everywhere.



A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO DRIVING A MULTI-LANE ROUNDABOUT

A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO DRIVING MULTI-LANE ROUNDABOUTS

A roundabout is an intersection where the curvature of the roadway helps to slow vehicle speeds and calm traffic. By following these easy steps for driving a multi-lane roundabout, you will be driving both multi-lane and single lane roundabouts like a PRO in no time.

STEP 1 SLOW DOWN

As you approach a multi-lane roundabout, slow down to the advisory speed and prepare to stop if necessary. Watch for bicyclists who decide to travel through the roundabout as a vehicle.



STEP 2 CHOOSE THE PROPER LANE

Safely maneuver into the appropriate lane well in advance of the intersection. Lane-use signs will show which lanes can be used for different turns. In this example: Right turns must use the right lane ONLY. Left turns must use the left lane ONLY. Any lane can be used to travel straight.



STEP 3 STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS

Just before you approach the roundabout, be sure to watch for any pedestrians and/or bicyclists in the crosswalk or waiting to cross.



STEP 4 YIELD ON ENTRY

When you reach the roundabout, do not proceed beyond the yield sign until there is a safe gap in circulating traffic approaching from the left. Never attempt to enter the intersection alongside crossing traffic, as those drivers have the right-of-way to exit the intersection.



STEP 5 ENTER THE ROUNDABOUT

When there is a safe gap in circulating traffic approaching from the left, proceed into the intersection, keeping to the right of the center island. Stay in your lane. Do not change lanes within the roundabout. As with any other type of intersection, you must be in the proper lane before entering.



STEP 6 EXIT THE ROUNDABOUT

Once you have safely entered, you have the right-of-way over other vehicles attempting to enter the roundabout. When you reach your desired exit point, signal as appropriate and simply proceed out of the roundabout towards your desired direction of travel.



STEP 7 STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS

Be sure to watch for any pedestrians and/or bicyclists as you exit the roundabout, and stop for any pedestrians and/or bicyclists within the crosswalk. Also watch for any bicyclists re-entering the roadway or bike path.



What should I do if an emergency vehicle is approaching?

If you have not entered the roundabout, pull over to the right and allow the emergency vehicle to pass. If you have already entered the roundabout, continue through the exit, and pull over to the right and allow the emergency vehicle to pass.

What should I do if there is a truck?

Instead of traveling next to them, give trucks space through the entry, circulating lane(s), and exit. Large trucks can use parts of the roundabout designed especially for them, such as the truck apron and truck blister. These are concrete areas which are colored differently than the sidewalk or roadway. Other motorists, pedestrians, or bicyclists should not use these areas.

MULTI-LANE ROUNDABOUT EXAMPLE

