

How To Drive a Roundabout

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Roundabouts are circular intersections where drivers travel around the circle in a counter-clockwise direction around a center island. Roundabouts are designed and intended to keep intersections safer and more efficient.

The numbers of Roundabouts in our community are growing, and you can expect to see more in the future. To some people, Roundabouts present a challenge simply because drivers have never seen one before, and because they are unfamiliar with the rules to effectively navigating a Roundabout.

Roundabouts reduce automobile fatalities and they are designed to handle higher levels of traffic when compared to standard intersections. In addition to that, Roundabouts decrease vehicles idling at intersections which in turn reduces exhaust emissions, and improves upon fuel economy.



BASIC ROUNDABOUT RULES

- Slow to the suggested speed designated for the Roundabout.
- Do not stop in a roundabout. Keep moving at the reduced speed.
- Yield to vehicles already in the Roundabout.
- Stay in your lane and do not inadvertently drift into another person's lane.
- Be alert at all times. Do not text or become distracted while navigating a Roundabout.
- Always watch for Pedestrians and Cyclists. Pedestrians should cross at the designated crosswalk. Cyclists can either ride in the Roundabout with other traffic or they can also use a crosswalk.
- If emergency vehicles approach, exit the Roundabout and pull over immediately.



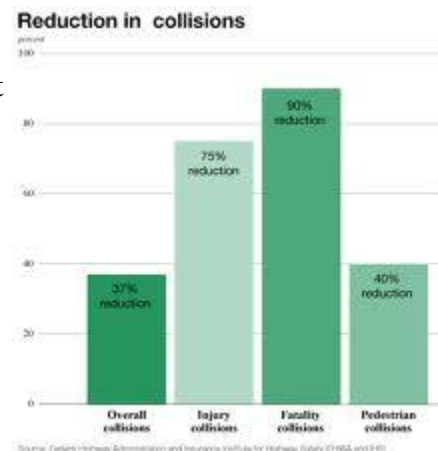
SINGLE LANE VS MULTI LANE

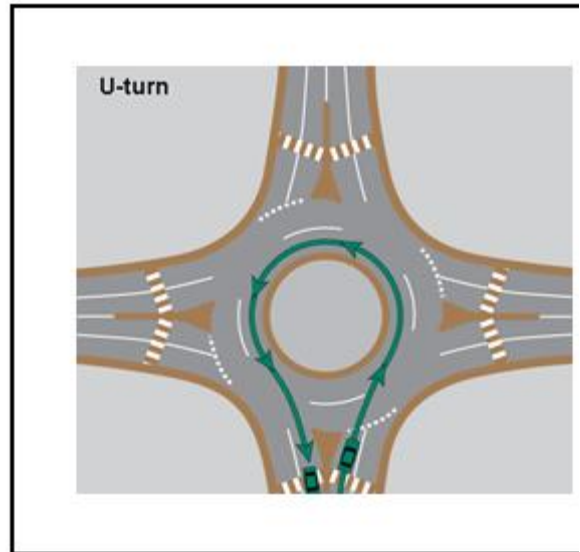
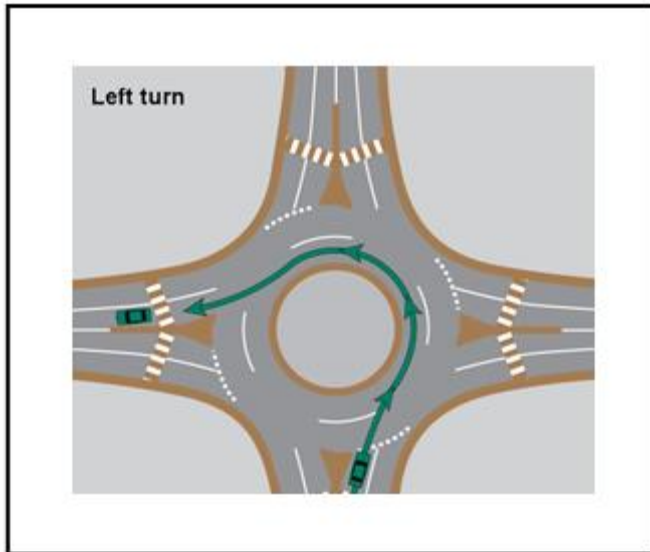
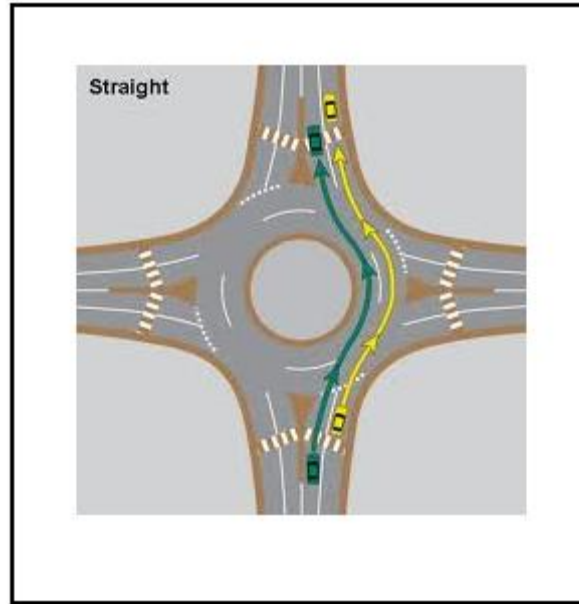
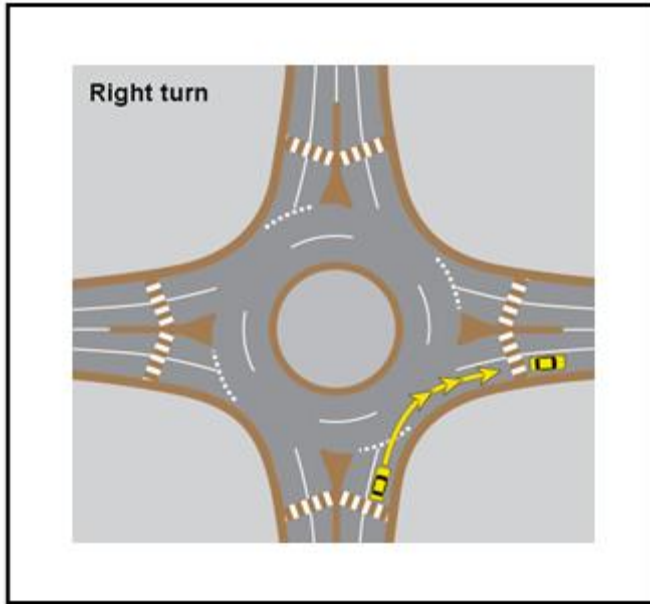
As you approach a Roundabout, you should see a sign similar to the Yield sign with arrows depicted above and to the left. You know a Roundabout is ahead so begin to reduce your rate of travel to the suggested speed. If you are nearing a multi-lane Roundabout like the example depicted above and to the right, think about navigating this intersection much like you would a traditional intersection. If you want to turn right or go straight, stay in the right lane. If you want to go straight or turn left, get in the left inner lane. You can also make U-turns from this lane. In a multi-lane Roundabout, always yield to both lanes of traffic. As you prepare to leave the Roundabout, carefully merge into the correct traffic lane as you navigate toward your exit.

IMPROVED SAFETY

According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), Roundabouts helped reduce crashes by 75 percent where traditional traffic signals were previously installed. Let us look at some of the reasons.

1. Drivers slow down at Roundabouts and yield to traffic already in the Roundabout. Speeds are generally 15 to 20 mph.
2. Because of the constant movement in the Roundabout, drivers do not have to "beat the light" before it turns red.
3. The one direction travel and the gentle shape of a Roundabout should help eliminate right angle and head-on crashes. Cell





The examples above show the four choices you have with most Roundabouts. Right Turn, Straight, Left Turn and U-Turn are your primary choices when two distinct roads intersect at a Roundabout. The Yellow lines show movement made in the right lane. The Green lines show movements made from the left inner lane.

Many surveys have found that once drivers become familiar with Roundabouts, their favorability increases greatly. Be careful and have a safe driving experience.