



ROUNDBABOUTS

WHAT IS A ROUNDBABOUT?

A roundabout is a circular intersection in which traffic travels around a central island. This simple design is becoming increasingly popular for its safety, mobility, and maintenance advantages.

- Vehicles entering the roundabout yield to traffic already in the roundabout.
- Traffic travels counterclockwise around a center island.
- Curvature naturally encourages drivers to travel at a slower speed.

IMPROVED SAFETY

Half of all traffic injuries happen at conventional intersections. Roundabouts improve intersection safety by:

- Reducing conflict points, which limits opportunities for crashes to occur, and crashes that do occur tend to be less severe.
- Lowering travel speeds, which gives drivers more time to react, and also reduces crash severity.

For these reasons, roundabouts typically experience 35% fewer crashes than a comparable traffic signal. Furthermore, there are 76% fewer injuries and 90% fewer fatalities.

REDUCED DELAYS AND FUEL CONSUMPTION

Drivers often experience less delay at roundabouts than at conventional intersections. Oftentimes drivers do not have to stop, and when they do, they can proceed as soon as traffic clears.

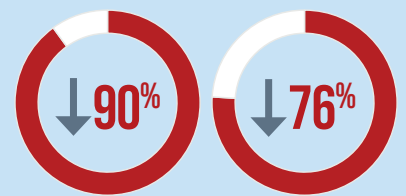
- Roundabouts reduce delay for motorists, particularly outside of rush hour. Instead of waiting at a red light, drivers go at the first opportunity.
- Because drivers stop less often and spend less time idling, fuel consumption is reduced.

MAINTENANCE

Compared to traffic signals, which must be carefully timed and maintained, roundabouts do not require specialized hardware other than lighting.

Photo: Roundabout on Highway 65B and Winfield Street in Conway.

ACCORDING TO THE
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
ROUNDBABOUT
INSTALLATION RESULTS IN



REDUCTION IN
FATALITIES

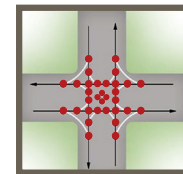
REDUCTION IN
INJURIES

Arkansas has over **170**
roundabouts on public roads
across the state.

CONFLICT POINTS

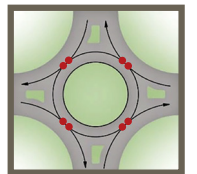
CONVENTIONAL
INTERSECTION

32



ROUNDBABOUT
INTERSECTION

8



Planning
Division

501-569-2201

June 2024



HOW TO NAVIGATE ROUNDBABOUTS

AS EASY AS 1, 2, 3



- Going slower provides more time to make decisions and be better prepared to yield to other road users.
- By entering the roundabout at a slower speed, crashes that do happen are much less severe.
- Slowing down helps drivers do a better job seeing pedestrians and bicycles and sharing the road with them.



- Drivers should choose the lane for where they want to go after the roundabout. Signs and markings help them select a lane.
- Like most other intersections, drivers use the left lane to go left, the right lane to go right, and either lane to go straight through, unless otherwise indicated.
- Drivers should keep looking around and check the crosswalks to see if anyone is waiting to cross or is already crossing. Drivers should be ready to stop and let them safely finish.



- Drivers must yield to traffic in all lanes of the roundabout, not just in the lane closest to them.
- If large vehicles like trucks or buses are in the roundabout, drivers should give them space and avoid driving next to them inside the roundabout.
- Drivers should follow the pavement markings to stay in the correct lane as they leave the roundabout. They should look around one more time for anyone in the crosswalk and be ready to yield as the drivers exit.

Source: Federal Highway Administration.

Photo: Roundabout on Highway 49 and Highway 34 in Marmaduke.