WHAT IS A ROUNDABOUT?

Modern roundabouts are circular intersections designed with traffic control features that direct movement counterclockwise to eliminate or alter conflict types, reduce crash severity and slow vehicular speeds. Before entering, drivers must yield to circulating traffic in the roundabout. There are both single-lane and multi-lane roundabouts, but they operate similarly when entering and exiting.

Roundabouts are used throughout the United States to reduce fatal and injury crashes, traffic delays, fuel consumption and air pollution. In many locations, roundabouts are a safer alternative to traffic signals and stop signs.

Signage to expect at a roundabout:

Roundabout Ahead
The roundabout ahead sign informs drivers they are approaching a roundabout intersection.

Yield Sign
The yield sign tells drivers to yield to traffic already in the roundabout.

Lane Use Sign
The lane use sign shows drivers which lanes are used for left, straight and right turns at the intersection.

The U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has identified roundabouts as a **Proven Safety Countermeasure** because of their ability to **substantially reduce the types of crashes that result in injury or loss of life.**

Use your phone camera to hover over the QR code for a video on how to drive a roundabout.

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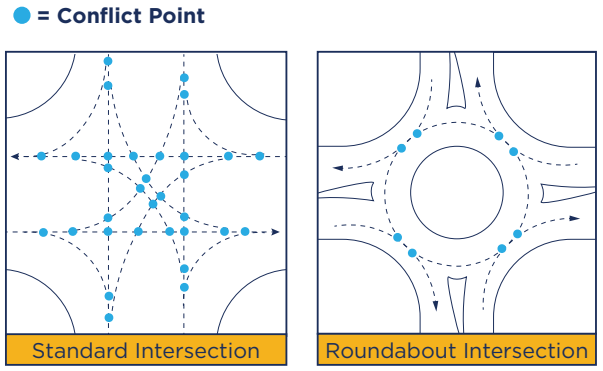
Roundabouts

KDOT IKE THE EISENHOWER LEGACY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Kansas Department of Transportation

WHY DOES KDOT BUILD ROUNDABOUTS?

1. They improve safety - Roundabouts have been proven to significantly reduce fatal and injury crashes. The reduction in crashes is attributed to slower speeds, no left turns and an overall reduction in conflict points.



2. They cost less to maintain - Roundabouts cost about $3,500 less than a traffic signal to maintain each year. They also reduce electricity costs by about $1,500 a year when compared to a signal.

3. They reduce delays - By eliminating the need to stop and wait for a green light, traffic keeps moving and delays are reduced.

4. They allow an efficient and steady flow of traffic - Roundabouts better accommodate large numbers of turning vehicles than a traffic signal.

5. They benefit the environment - When delays are reduced, that means a reduction in fuel consumption and air pollution because cars aren't idling as they wait for a green light.

6. They offer an opportunity for beautification - The center island provides an opportunity to beautify the intersection's landscaping.

HOW TO DRIVE A ROUNDABOUT

Approaching - Several signs will be on display as you approach the roundabout, such as roundabout ahead, warning signs with advisory speeds and yield signs at the entry.

Entering - Yield to any vehicles on your left and enter the roundabout when there is a safe gap in traffic.

Circulating - Do not stop once you're in the roundabout, and stay in your lane if you are in a multi-lane roundabout.

Exiting - When exiting, use your right turn signal and continue to watch for impacts to traffic.

There are both single-lane and multi-lane roundabouts, but they operate similarly when entering and exiting.

U.S. 77/U.S. 50 roundabout in Florence.

The central island of many roundabouts includes a truck apron (above), a raised section of concrete that acts as an extra lane for large vehicles. The back wheels of the oversize vehicle can ride up on the truck apron so the truck can easily complete the turn, while the raised portion of concrete discourages use by smaller vehicles.

In many locations, roundabouts are a safer alternative than stop signs and signals.

Roundabouts constructed at intersections along high-speed, two-lane rural highways **reduced overall crashes by up to 68% and reduced injury crashes by up to 88%.**

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