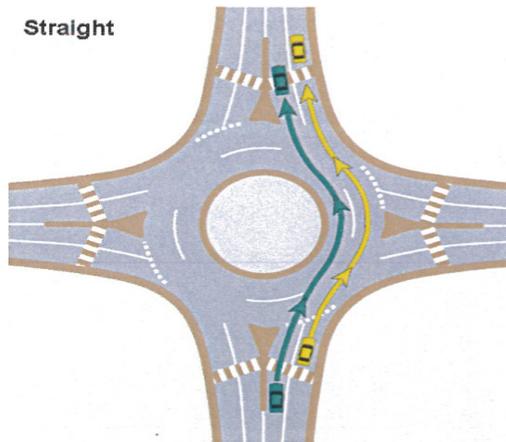


Roundabouts are becoming more common across the U.S. as a way to improve traffic flow and reduce serious accidents. But for drivers who have never used a roundabout, it can seem confusing at first. With no stop signs or signals, who has the right of way? Is it safe for pedestrians? What's the speed limit in a roundabout? In this brochure, drivers, pedestrians and cyclists can find answers to many common roundabout questions.



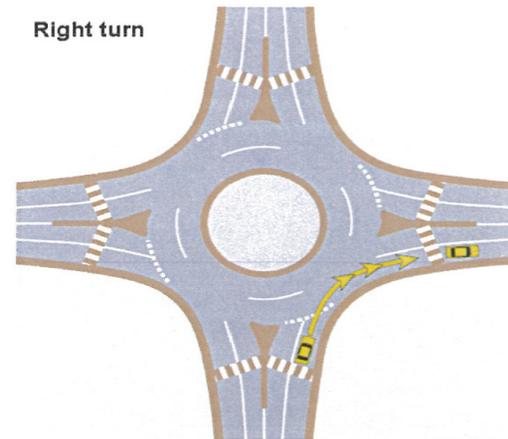
How do I go straight?

In a two lane roundabout, you can use either the left or the right lane to go straight. As you approach the roundabout, yield to traffic already in the circle. If no cars are in the roundabout, you may enter without yielding. Enter the roundabout and curve gently to the right, then continue ahead in your lane, staying to the right of the roadway median as you exit the roundabout.



How do I make a right turn?

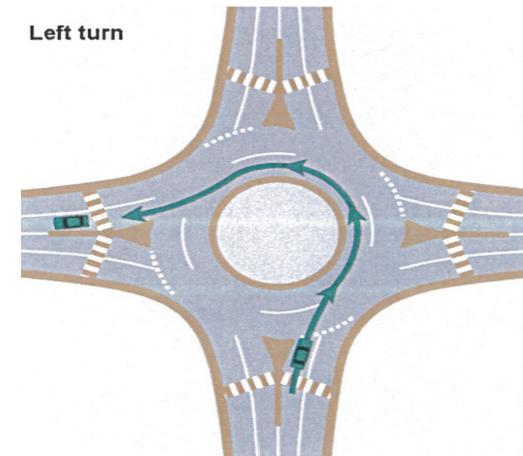
As you approach the roundabout, make sure you are in the right lane. Yield to traffic already in the circle. Enter the roundabout and make a sweeping right turn one-quarter of the way around the roundabout, staying to the right of the roadway median as you exit the roundabout.



Right turn

How do I make a left turn?

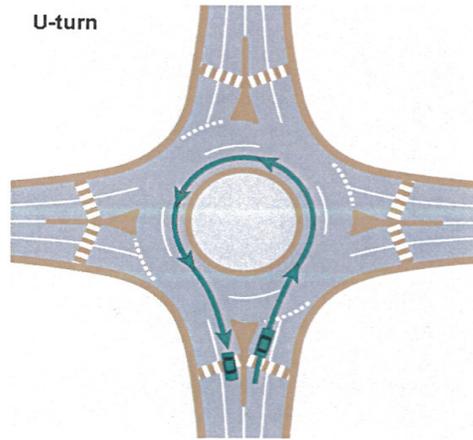
As you near the roundabout, make sure you are in the left lane. Yield to traffic already in the circle. If no cars are in the roundabout, you may enter without yielding. Enter the roundabout, staying in the left lane, and make a sweeping left turn three-quarters of the way around the center of the roundabout, staying to the right of the roadway median as you exit. Check to make sure there is no traffic in the outside lane before you exit.



Left turn

How do I make a U turn?

As you near the roundabout, make sure you are in the left lane. Yield to traffic already in the circle if no cars are in the roundabout, you may enter without yielding. Enter the roundabout, staying in the left lane, and make a sweeping left turn completely around the center of the roundabout. Exit the roundabout, staying to the right of the roadway median. Check to make sure there is no traffic in the outside lane before you exit.



Can I change lanes in a roundabout?

No. Once you enter a roundabout, you must stay in your lane. Make sure you choose the correct lane before you enter the roundabout.

Do I have to yield to entering vehicles if I'm already in a roundabout?

No. If you are in a roundabout, vehicles entering the roundabout must yield to you. However, you must yield to pedestrians or bicycles in crosswalks when entering or exiting the roundabout.



What if an emergency vehicle approaches?

In a roundabout, you treat emergency vehicles the same way you would in a traditional intersection. Do not stop if you are in the roundabout. Continue to your exit. Once you exit the roundabout, pull to the right and allow the emergency vehicle to pass. If you see an emergency vehicle as you are approaching a roundabout, pull to the right to allow it to pass, then continue into the roundabout.

How do I use the roundabout if I'm on a bicycle?

If you feel comfortable doing so, you can ride through the roundabout with traffic. You must observe the same rules as vehicles. You may also walk your bicycle through the pedestrian crossings.



How do I use a roundabout if I'm on foot?

Crosswalks are located on each street near the entrance to the roundabout. Pedestrian islands are also located between lanes. This means that you can cross one direction of traffic and have a safe place to wait in the median before you cross another direction of traffic.

Are Roundabouts better for the environment?

Roundabouts promote a continuous flow of traffic, which means vehicles spend less time idling or stopping and starting. This reduces fuel consumption and vehicle emissions and is better for the environment. Studies by the IIHS have shown that roundabouts can reduce fuel consumption by 30 percent compared to traditional traffic signals. Roundabouts can also be constructed with trees and shrubs at the center, which provides another porous surface for water to filter into the ground.

How safe is a roundabout?

Studies have shown that roundabouts are safer than traditional signalized intersections. Speeds are slower through a roundabout because cars enter the circular intersection at a desirable angle and all travel the same direction. The chance of T-bone and head-on collisions is virtually eliminated. Studies by the IIHS have shown a 40 percent reduction in all crashes, a 70 percent reduction in injury crashes and a projected 90 percent reduction in fatality crashes. And because speeds in a roundabout are 25 mph or slower, the braking distance is significantly reduced in the event of a collision. At 50 mph, braking distance is approximately 475 feet. At 25 mph, braking distance is reduced to 125 feet.

What is the speed through a roundabout?

Roundabouts are designed for speeds 25 mph or slower. You should drive between 15 and 25 mph through the roundabout.

Questions?? Please contact the Providence City Public Works Department at 435-753-0313.