

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is a roundabout?

A roundabout is a circular intersection where traffic flows counterclockwise around a central island, and entering vehicles yield to circulating traffic.

How is a roundabout different from a traffic circle?

Modern roundabouts have yield control at all entries, slower speeds, and geometric deflection.

Why are roundabouts being used more often?

They improve safety, reduce severe crashes, lower delay, and often reduce long-term maintenance compared to signalized intersections.

Are roundabouts safer than signals or stop-controlled intersections?

Yes. Studies consistently show reduction in severe injury crashes by 87%. This is largely due to fewer conflict points and lower vehicle speeds.

Are roundabouts safe at night or in bad weather?

Yes. Proper lighting, signing, pavement markings, and curb geometry guide drivers.

What happens when traffic volumes increase in the future?

Roundabouts can often accommodate growth better than stop control and sometimes signals. If needed, they can be expanded (e.g., additional lanes).

Can trucks and freight vehicles use roundabouts?

Yes. Roundabouts are designed with truck aprons (mountable curbing) in the center. Larger entry and circulating widths to accommodate semi-trucks and other large vehicles.

Why are roundabouts confusing to some drivers?

Mostly due to unfamiliarity. Education and proper signing/markings significantly reduce confusion.

What happens if a driver makes a mistake?

Roundabouts are forgiving. Drivers can go around again safely. Slower speeds allow for more reaction time. Mistakes are low speed events with fewer injuries.

Will construction impact traffic?

There will always be at least one lane open in each direction so drivers can still make all movements during every phase of construction. Temporary pavement will be used to make this possible.