What is a Modern Roundabout?

A modern roundabout is a circular intersection where entering traffic yields to vehicles traveling counter-clockwise around a central island. The modern roundabout is used to slow the speed of vehicles to increase capacity and improve safety. Multi-lane roundabouts are used to move traffic around the central island through lanes which correspond to an intended destination. The lane should be chosen by the driver before entering the roundabout

Advantages of Roundabouts

Safety

Roundabouts reduce vehicle speeds, as well as the number of conflict points. Roundabouts eliminate head-on/left-turn and angle type crashes which frequently result in serious or fatal injuries.

Operations

With the use of yield signs instead of stop signs or traffic signals, vehicles are able to enter the roundabout when there are adequate gaps in the traffic flow. This reduces the number of vehicles which have to stop and also reduces the time vehicles are stopped. This reduces delays and increases the capacity of the intersection.

Maintenance

Roundabouts reduce long-term operational and maintenance costs associated with traditional signalized intersections. There are no traffic signals to power and maintain, which can amount to a savings of approximately $2,000 - $5,000 per year.

Aesthetics

Roundabouts create an area for communities to provide green space and landscape architecture. There are no large poles, overhead wires, or signals cluttering the visual environment.

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For More Information, Please Visit:
www.michigan.gov/roundabouts

How to Use a Roundabout

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How to Use a Roundabout

Step 1: Slow down as you approach the roundabout.

Step 2: Use the guide signs and lane designation markers to choose the appropriate lane for the intended destination.

Step 3: Look for pedestrians and bicyclists as you approach the crosswalk. Yield to those intending to cross.

Step 4: Slow down as you approach the yield sign and dashed yield line. Look to the left to see if vehicles are traveling within the roundabout.

Step 5: Once there is an adequate gap in traffic, enter the roundabout. Do not stop or change lanes once in the roundabout.

Step 6: As you approach the intended destination, signal your intent to exit. Look for pedestrians and bicyclists as you exit.

What Not To Do in a Roundabout

- **Do not stop inside a roundabout**
- **Do not change lanes while in a roundabout**
- **Do not pass another vehicle**

Pedestrians

Roundabouts create a safer environment for pedestrians to cross by slowing vehicles and dividing the crossing into two stages. When crossing the roadway, pedestrians should look for oncoming vehicles and bicyclists. Even though pedestrians have the right of way, they should be aware of vehicles and make sure drivers see them and are going to yield. When there is a sufficient gap in traffic or vehicles have yielded, the pedestrian should cross to the splitter island. The process is then repeated to finish the crossing of the roadway. The pedestrian should not try to cross both directions of traffic in one attempt.

Bicyclists

Bicyclists can use the roundabout as a pedestrian or in the same manner as a vehicle. When crossing as a pedestrian, dismount the bicycle and cross using the same guidelines. When using the roundabout in the same manner as a motor vehicle, the cyclists should center themselves in the lane so they are more visible to motorists and to prevent motorists from trying to pass or overtake them. They should then follow the same procedure as a vehicle.

Emergency Vehicles

If you have not yet entered the roundabout and see an emergency vehicle approaching, pull over to the right and allow the emergency vehicle to enter and clear the roundabout. If you are already traveling in the roundabout as an emergency vehicle approaches, exit at the nearest exit and then pull over to allow the emergency vehicle to clear the roundabout. Do not stop within a roundabout.

Trucks

Roundabouts are designed to accommodate trucks and other large vehicles. Trucks require more room to turn and may use the mountable truck apron, the raised pavement around the centralized island, for additional space. Drivers should be aware of large vehicles on the approach and within the roundabout. Do not drive next to a truck or try to pass a truck on the approach or while traveling in a roundabout.