



What is a roundabout?

- ▶ A roundabout is a one-way circular intersection engineered to maximize safety and reduce traffic congestion.
- ▶ The “yield at entry” rule reduces delay by eliminating unnecessary stopping. Drivers yield to traffic in the roundabout and enter only when there is a safe gap in traffic.
- ▶ Pavement markings and signs direct traffic into a one-way, counter-clockwise flow.
- ▶ Raised islands and painted crosswalks at roundabouts provide safety for pedestrians. Short crossing distances and slow moving traffic increase pedestrian safety.
- ▶ Pedestrians cross the street using the designated crosswalks. Raised islands are provided in the middle of each crossing so pedestrians only cross one direction of traffic at a time.
- ▶ Bicyclists using the roundabout can either exit at the bicycle ramps and use the sidewalk, or continue with traffic on the road.

Driving in circles can be a good thing, if it means you get where you want to **more quickly and safely.**

That’s why the Wisconsin Department of Transportation will incorporate roundabouts at key locations within the I-39/90 expansion project.

Questions, comments or concerns?
Contact us in whichever way is most convenient.



Online

www.i39-90.wi.gov



Email

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Please drive safely

Since roundabouts are fairly new to our area, please expect a short adjustment period as drivers get used to driving them.

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 **39/90**
IMPROVING
a gateway to Wisconsin

all about ROUNABOUTS



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



BENEFITS

Roundabouts are becoming more common in the United States and the state of Wisconsin due to their many benefits. The I-39/90 expansion project will incorporate roundabouts at several intersections along the corridor to improve safety and reduce traffic congestion.

How to get around

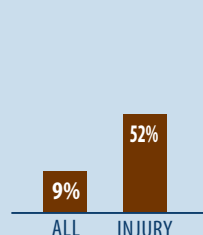
- ▶ Observe all standard road rules, including yielding for pedestrians in crosswalks.
- ▶ To safely and efficiently drive a roundabout:
 - Slow down.
 - Read advance signing and choose correct lane.
 - Yield to traffic in all lanes on your left before entering.
 - Stay in your lane to your exit.



Safer

Roundabouts are safer than other intersections because severe head-on and left-turn crashes do not occur. Other safety benefits include slower speeds and the one-way circulating traffic.

Accident reduction at roundabouts



Roundabouts are proven to reduce overall accident rates in Wisconsin by approximately 9%, and reduce severe crashes by 52%. The 2011 Study by the UW Traffic Operations & Safety Laboratory reported zero fatal crashes.

In addition, studies show fewer accidents involving pedestrians and bicyclists at roundabouts as compared to signalized intersections.

Efficient

Roundabouts reduce delay by allowing motorists to yield rather than stop at a red light. They can also handle higher traffic volumes, which helps vehicles get through quicker.

Economical

Reducing driver delay saves time and fuel. Eliminating signals also saves approximately \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year in maintenance and energy costs.

Green

Roundabouts reduce fuel consumption and vehicle pollution because vehicles are not idling at a red light.

The center island of a roundabout provides an opportunity to beautify the location with landscaping. Flowers, trees, or even simple green space can be placed in the center of a roundabout, making the intersection aesthetically pleasing.

Roundabout Myths vs. Facts

Myth: Traffic circles/rotaries and roundabouts are the same thing.

Fact: Traffic circles have high-speed entries, variable yield rules, low capacity, and many high-speed crashes. They are dangerous and confusing to drive.

Roundabouts require motorists to yield on entry, speeds are low, capacity is high, and crashes are few and minor. They are designed to be easy to use and provide a higher level of driver safety.

Myth: Roundabouts are not pedestrian and bicyclist friendly.

Fact: There are statistically fewer pedestrian and bicycle crashes at roundabouts than at signalized intersections. Drivers are required to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalks, while refuge islands provide a space for pedestrians in the middle of each crossing so pedestrians only cross one direction of traffic at a time.

Yield ▶



The “Golden Rule” of driving roundabouts.

When you enter the roundabout, you must yield to circulating traffic.

Yield means the other drivers in the circle have the right of way. A motorist approaching a roundabout should wait for a safe gap in traffic before entering.