Benefits of a roundabout

Safety

- Roundabouts have far fewer conflict points than other intersections because they eliminate potential for head-on, right angle, and left-turning traffic crashes.

- Studies have shown a 90% reduction in fatal crashes and 76% reduction in injury crashes when compared to a signalized intersection.

Function (Delay and Capacity)

- By yielding at an entry rather than stopping and waiting for a signal light, the average delay during rush hour is typically reduced.

- During light traffic conditions, roundabouts cause almost no delay.

Environment & Beauty

- Fewer starts and stops reduce both fuel consumption and air pollution

- Islands in the roundabout provide an area for landscaping or other aesthetic features.

New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

District Five

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Driving Roundabouts

NMDOT

District Five
7315 Cerrillos Road

Santa Fe, NM 87502
1-800-388-6630

District Five Traffic Section
505 476-4240

Roundabout Signs

ROUNDABOUT AHEAD
XX M.P.H.

There is a roundabout ahead—slow down.

STREET NAME ROUNDABOUT
LEFT LANE   RIGHT LANE

If there are two entry lanes to the roundabout; choose the correct one. If you are turning left, get in the left lane.

YIELD

Yield to all traffic in the roundabout. Vehicles already in the roundabout have the right of way.

ONE WAY

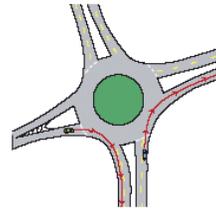Drive counterclockwise only in the roundabout.

General Guidelines

- Do not stop in the roundabout.

- Be aware of pedestrians.

- Turning traffic should choose its respective lane before entering the roundabout.

- If making a right or left turn, use your turn signals.

- Never change lanes in the roundabout.
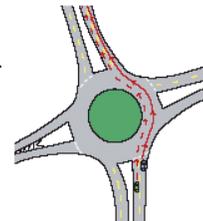
Driving in Roundabouts

Right Turns

- Slow down and prepare to yield as you approach the roundabout.

  - On the approach you must be in the right lane (if it is a dual lane roundabout).
  - You **must** yield to the traffic already in the roundabout.
  - Stay to the right as you approach your turn.
  - Place your right turn signal on until you have exited the roundabout.

Straight Ahead

- Slow down and prepare to yield as you approach the roundabout.

- If entering a two-lane roundabout, and the right lane is blocked due to dense traffic or road obstruction, approach and continue through the roundabout in the left lane.

- You **must** yield to traffic already in the roundabout.

Left Turn or U-Turn

- Slow down and prepare to yield as you approach the roundabout.

  - Enter the roundabout in the left lane (if there is a two-lane approach) and stay in that lane throughout the roundabout.
  - You **must** yield to traffic already in the roundabout.
  - Place your left turn signal on until you have exited the roundabout.

Other Users

Pedestrians

- Stay within and cross only on the designated walkways at all times.

- When safe, cross the road one lane at a time, using the median island as a refuge before crossing the next lane.

- Use pedestrian flashers when available.

Bicycles

- Approach the roundabout in the bicycle lane.

- Where the bicycle lane ends, either use the bicycle ramp up to the sidewalk or merge with traffic.

- Bicycles using the street should follow the same rules as motorists. Be assertive and occupy the middle of the lane.

- Bicycles using the sidewalk should follow the same rules as pedestrians by crossing the street as needed at marked crosswalks.

Emergency Vehicles

- Do not enter the roundabout when emergency vehicles are in the vicinity; pull to the side.

- Allow vehicles in the roundabout to clear in front of the emergency vehicle.

- If in the roundabout, exit the roundabout and pull to the side.

- DO NOT STOP IN THE ROUNDABOUT.

Trucks & Other Large Vehicles

- Roundabouts are designed to accommodate large trucks, buses, and emergency vehicles.

- Large trucks may, when necessary, drive on the raised pavement area, called a truck apron, in the center of the roundabout. Usually only the rear wheels track on the apron.

- Cars should not use the raised truck apron.

- Cars should follow behind large trucks or buses and never along side these vehicles.