Round, Round Get Around

More Economical

Reducing driver delay saves time, fuel and helps reduce pollution. Eliminating signals also saves about $5,000 a year in maintenance and electricity.

More Attractive

The island also provides a great opportunity to beautify the location with landscaping.

Roundabouts vs. Driving in Circles

It's easy to get turned around, but a roundabout is different than a traffic circle, already in use around the country. They're both circular intersections without traffic signals, but in a roundabout, entering traffic usually yields to circulating traffic, which prevents delay and allows free-flow movement. In traffic circles, circulating traffic yields to entering vehicles, which can cause backups.

For more information on

Roundabouts

contact MoDOT at

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Illustrations courtesy of Kittelson & Associates, Portland, Ore.

SM05.041

Driving the Roundabout Way

Missouri Department of Transportation

Driving in Circles

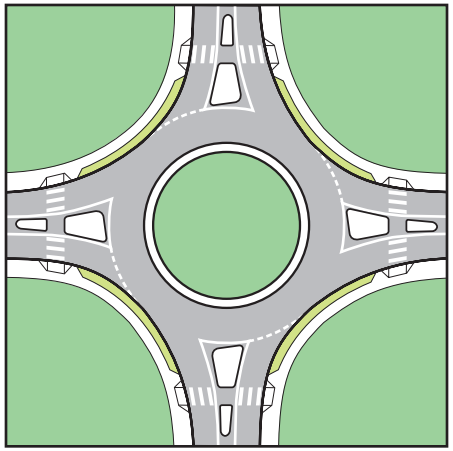
Driving in circles can be a good thing, if it means you get where you want to go quicker and safer. That's why the Missouri Department of Transportation is using roundabouts as a way to manage traffic at some intersections.

A roundabout is a one-way circular intersection that channels traffic around a central island without traffic signals.

Is Round Sound?

Roundabouts are a great alternative to a signalized intersection when a high volume of traffic needs to get through with the least amount of inconvenience. They also have many distinct benefits to the driver.

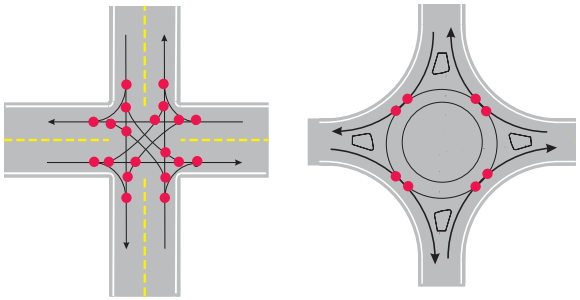
Typical roundabout configuration.



Safer

While signalized intersections have 20 conflict points, or spots where vehicles could collide, roundabouts reduce that number to eight. Fewer conflict points, combined with slower speeds and calmer traffic, can translate into as much as 75 percent fewer crashes. Because roundabouts tend to have fewer severe crashes than signalized intersections, they have fewer crash-related injuries as well.

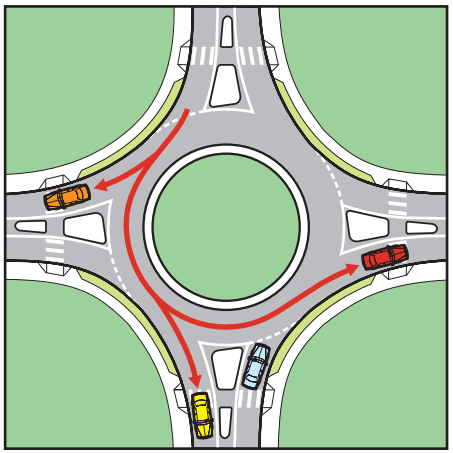
Conflict points of signalized intersection (left) and roundabout (right).



Quicker

Roundabouts reduce driver delay by allowing motorists to yield rather than stop. They can also handle higher traffic volumes, especially at intersections with many left turns, which helps vehicles get through quicker.

How to Get Around

- As drivers approach a roundabout they slow down and yield to traffic already circulating. This keeps vehicles from clogging up the circle, and it allows vehicles to enter when there is an opening.
- When a gap in traffic appears on the left, drivers enter the roundabout by turning right and following the circle until reaching their exits.
- Splitter islands and lane stripes help keep traffic moving in the right direction.

Traffic flow.