Navigating a multi-lane roundabout

Left turns and u-turns, use left lane

Stay in your lane!

Traffic circulates counterclockwise in the roundabout

Going straight, use right lane or left lane

Right turns, use right lane

Crosswalk: Yield to pedestrians

Wait for a safe gap in traffic before entering the roundabout

Choose your lane and yield to all traffic before entering roundabout!
Waldo Avenue – Multi-Lane Roundabout Information
What You Need to Know

WHAT is a roundabout?
A modern roundabout is a circular intersection in which traffic travels counterclockwise around a central island. Vehicles enter by yielding to the circulating traffic and exit by making a right turn. When approaching a roundabout, you’ll see signs and pavement markings directing you how to travel through the intersection.

WHAT are the safety benefits of roundabouts?
The most common types of collisions at traditional intersections with stop signs or traffic signals are right-angle, left-turn, and head-on collisions. These types of collisions can be severe because vehicles may be traveling through the intersection at high speeds. There were 19 right-angle crashes between 2007 and 2011 at the Waldo Boulevard and Maritime Drive intersection.

Roundabouts are designed for traffic to travel in the same direction, essentially eliminating the potential for the severe crashes that occur at traditional intersections. Vehicle-to-vehicle conflicts within the roundabout generally involve a vehicle merging into the circular roadway with both vehicles traveling at low speeds (typically 20 mph in urban areas).

A technical report prepared by the Transportation Research Board (NCHRP 572) analyzing 23 intersections in seven states found:

- Four roundabouts converted from traffic signal to roundabout control reduced crashes by 35%, with a 74% reduction in crashes resulting in injuries.
- Roundabouts resulted in less severe crashes by reducing speeds and minimizing head-on and right-angle crashes.

HOW do roundabouts accommodate larger vehicles?
Trucks typically need more space to make turns through an intersection, and other drivers should avoid driving next to large trucks when approaching or traveling through a roundabout.

To accommodate vehicles with larger turning radii such as trucks, buses, emergency vehicles, tractor-trailers, and tractors, roundabouts include a truck apron between the circulatory roadway and the central island. This is a paved area, typically reddish in color, on the inside of the roundabout that the rear wheels of large vehicles can track over when turning. Truck aprons should not be used by passenger cars, SUVs, or pickup trucks.

HOW do roundabouts keep pedestrians safe?
A pedestrian should use the crosswalks to cross the street at a roundabout. Pedestrians should cross at the roundabout approaches, not through the center of the roundabout.

WHAT other benefits do roundabouts provide?
More efficient traffic flow at a roundabout reduces vehicle emissions and fuel consumption. Studies have shown that replacing a signalized intersection with a roundabout can reduce carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide, carbon dioxide, and hydrocarbon emissions. Constructing roundabouts in place of traffic signals can also reduce fuel consumption by about 30%. Roundabouts also can enhance aesthetics by providing landscaping opportunities.

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