BENEFITS OF A ROUNDABOUT

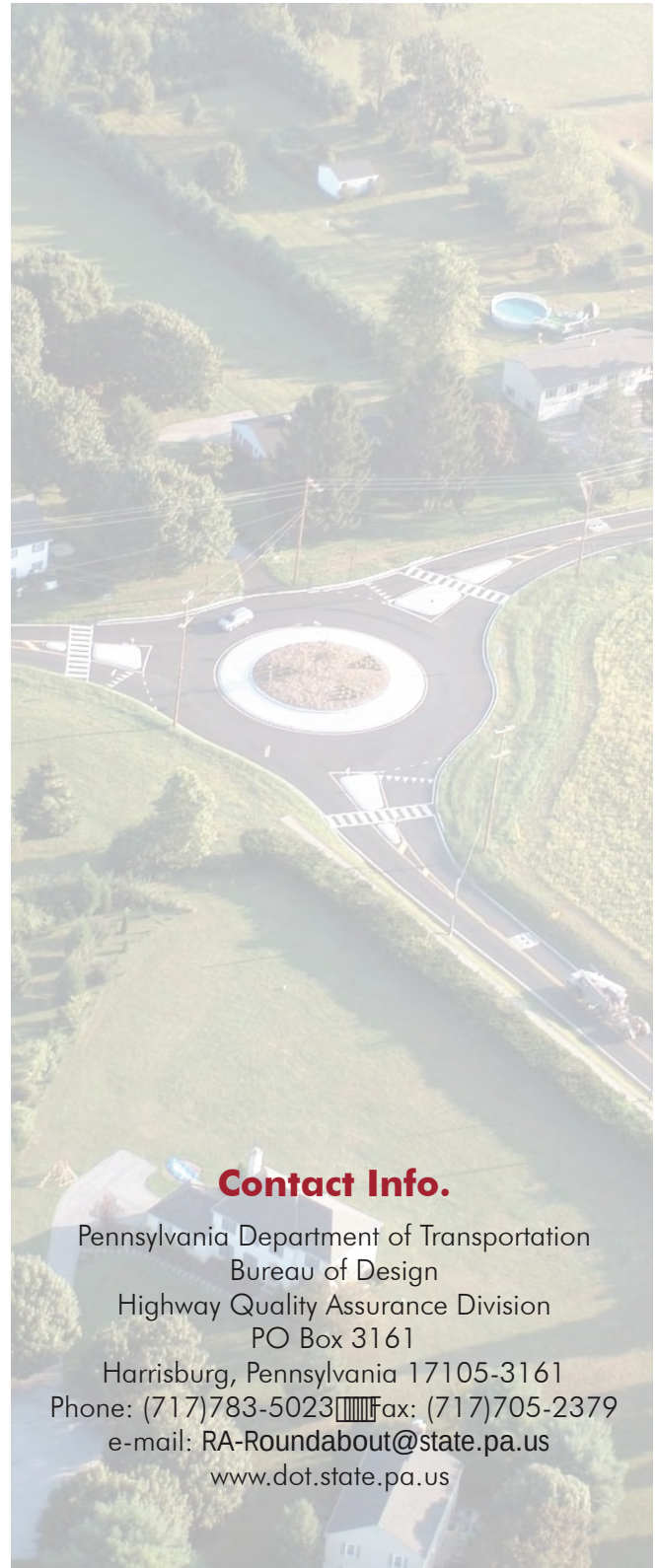
Safety

Roundabouts offer improved safety over other at-grade intersection forms because roundabouts have fewer conflict points, slower speeds, and easier decision making. When comparing a multi-lane roundabout to a signal, studies show that roundabouts have reduction in all crashes by 32% and a reduction of injury causing crashes by 68%. These reductions are due to the elimination of most head-on, left turning across oncoming traffic, and right angle crashes.

Roundabouts improve pedestrian safety offering two simple crossings of one-way traffic moving at much slower speeds.

Capacity

Roundabouts typically carry about 30% more vehicles than similarly sized signalized intersections during peak flow conditions. During off-peak conditions, roundabouts cause almost no delay, but traffic signals can cause delay to side street and left-turning traffic from the major street. Increased capacity at roundabouts is due to the continuously flowing nature of yielding only until a gap is available, versus waiting turns at a signal.

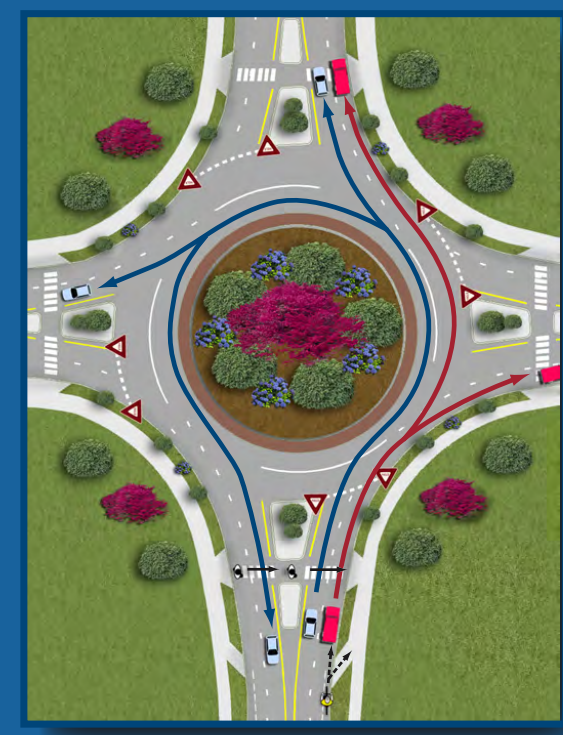


Contact Info.

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Bureau of Design
Highway Quality Assurance Division
PO Box 3161
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3161
Phone: (717)783-5023 Fax: (717)705-2379
e-mail: RA-Roundabout@state.pa.us
www.dot.state.pa.us

MULTI-LANE ROUNDABOUT

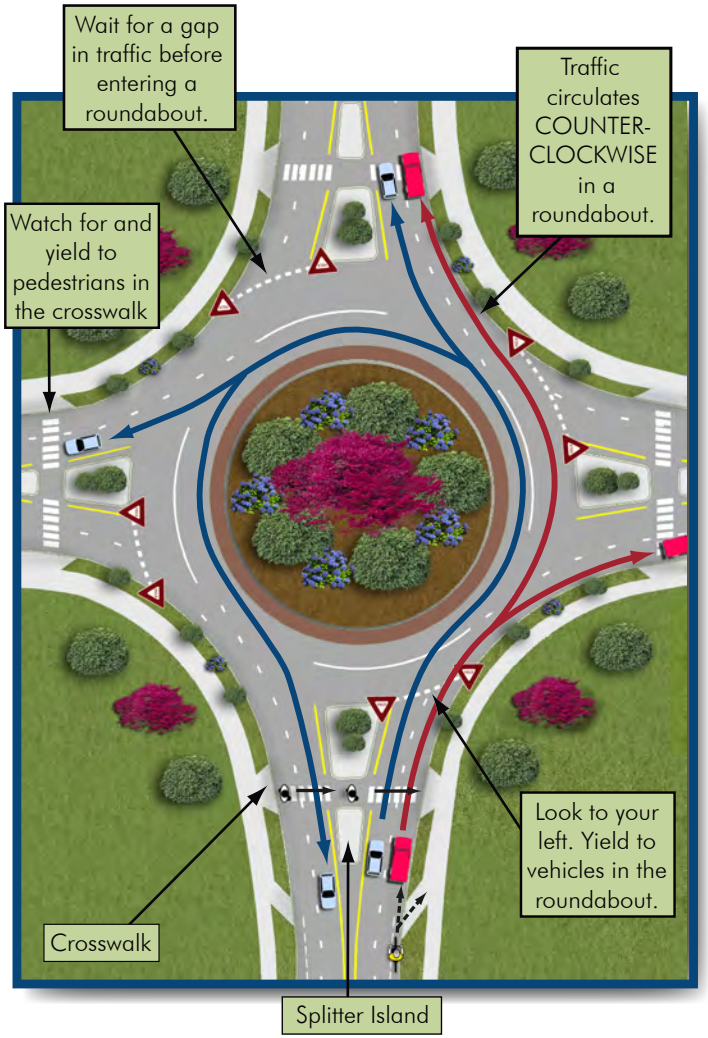
General Information and Driving Tips for Motorists



PENNDOT

PUB 580 (6-06)

MULTI-LANE ROUNDABOUT



MOTORIST

Going Left or U-turn:

1. When approaching the roundabout, you must be in the LEFT LANE unless otherwise marked on the road.
2. Slow down and be prepared to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.
3. Pull up to the Yield Line, look to the left and check for approaching traffic within the roundabout. CIRCULATING TRAFFIC HAS THE RIGHT-OF-WAY.
4. Enter the roundabout when there is a safe gap in traffic.
5. Use your right turn signal and exit the roundabout from the left lane into the left lane of the exit leg.
6. Be prepared to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Going Straight:

1. When approaching the roundabout, you can be in the EITHER LANE unless otherwise marked on the road.
2. Slow down and be prepared to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.
3. Pull up to the Yield Line, look to the left and check for approaching traffic within the roundabout. CIRCULATING TRAFFIC HAS THE RIGHT-OF-WAY.
4. Enter the roundabout when there is a safe gap in traffic.
5. Stay in your lane when going around.
6. Use your right turn signal and exit the roundabout staying in your lane.
7. Be prepared to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Going Right:

1. When approaching the roundabout, you must be in the RIGHT LANE unless otherwise marked on the road.
2. Slow down and be prepared to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.
3. Pull up to the Yield Line, look to the left and check for approaching traffic within the roundabout. CIRCULATING TRAFFIC HAS THE RIGHT-OF-WAY.
4. Enter the roundabout when there is a safe gap in traffic.
5. Stay in the right lane.
6. Use your right turn signal and exit the roundabout from the right lane.
7. Be prepared to yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.

BE PREPARED FOR...

Emergency Vehicles:

Do not enter the roundabout when emergency vehicles are approaching-pull to the side. If in the roundabout, immediately exit the roundabout and pull to the side. NEVER STOP IN THE ROUNDABOUT.

Large Trucks:

Motorists should be aware that large trucks using multi-lane roundabouts may require both lanes. As such, motorists should never attempt to pass a truck in a roundabout.

Bicyclists:

Bicyclists have the option to function as a vehicle or pedestrian when using a roundabout. When acting as a vehicle, they will follow the same rules. NEVER OVERTAKE A BICYCLIST ACTING AS A VEHICLE IN A ROUNDABOUT.

Pedestrians:

Motorists must yield to pedestrians when entering and existing a roundabout. Pedestrians will utilize crosswalks and splitter islands to cross each leg of the roundabout.