



NEWS

Wisconsin Department of Transportation



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Multi-lane roundabouts

The US 41 Project will include 44 roundabouts, which are intersection alternatives to traffic lights or stop signs that increase safety and reduce delays.



Aerial view of roundabout intersection in De Pere, Wis.

Modern roundabouts are the newest form of intersection in the United States. There are 43 operating roundabouts associated with the State Highway System, and 189 proposed for the future. The local street system has at least 42 more roundabouts in operation throughout Wisconsin.

Roundabouts provide safe and efficient traffic flow and make use of extensive safety and traffic research conducted over the past 25 years in other countries.

Benefits of roundabouts

Studies by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety show that roundabouts provide:

- 90% reduction in fatal crashes
- 76% reduction in injury crashes
- 30-40% reduction in pedestrian crashes
- 10% reduction in bicycle crashes
- Fewer conflict points, which means fewer opportunities for crashes

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A number of benefits are gained due to slow motorist speed in roundabouts. Slower speeds:

- Allow more time to judge and react to cars/pedestrians
- Are advantageous to older and novice drivers
- Reduce the severity of crashes
- Are safer for pedestrians
- Promote more uniform and predictable speeds

Overall, there are a number of community benefits to roundabouts, including:

- Traffic calming
- Aesthetic landscaping
- Reduced vehicle emissions

How to navigate a multi-lane roundabout

Motorists

- Choose the correct lane before entering the roundabout
 - Take note of the lane signs and arrows
- Slow down as you approach the roundabout and obey the yield signs
- When approaching the roundabout, the same general rules of approaching a standard intersection apply:
 - Choose left lane for left turn
 - Choose right lane for right turn
 - To proceed straight ahead, follow pavement markings and black and white signs
- Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists as you enter and exit the roundabout
- Yield to traffic on your left that is already traveling in the roundabout
- Enter the roundabout when there is a safe gap in traffic
- Keep your speed low within the roundabout and stay in your lane
- Turn on your right turn signal as you approach your exit

Large vehicles

- Large vehicles will likely utilize the lane next to them as they enter the roundabout; they may also straddle both circulating lanes or the concrete truck apron that borders the inside of the roundabout
- Drivers should be cautious and never drive adjacent to or pass large trucks while maneuvering the roundabout

Pedestrians

- Always use the sidewalk and crosswalk
- Although Wisconsin law states that vehicles must yield to pedestrians, people using the crosswalk should always look towards oncoming traffic before entering
- Wait for a gap in traffic and then cross
- Midway across, pedestrians may pause in the island between lanes
- Check again for oncoming traffic and continue crossing

Bicyclists

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- If you are riding on the shoulder or bike lane, merge into the traffic lane before the shoulder ends
- Signal your intent to move into traffic
- Once inside the roundabout, do not hug the curb
- Ride close to the middle of the lane to prevent cars from passing and cutting you off
- Be attentive to cars entering and exiting the roundabout
- If you prefer not to ride in a roundabout, use the sidewalk and proceed as a pedestrian

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Distribution

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