

Roundabouts

Enhancing Intersection Safety and Efficiency

Roundabouts offer improved safety with fewer conflict points, slower speeds and easier decision making. PennDOT has installed roundabouts across the state and requires that this design be considered when a significant intersection update is planned. Intersection and Interchange Geometrics, which included roundabouts, is a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Every Day Counts 2 (EDC-2) innovation that Pennsylvania championed.

What are the benefits?

- **Significantly reduces** head-on and T-bone crashes
- **Decreases congestion** with the constant flow of traffic
- **Improves pedestrian crossing** with slower moving traffic and refuge areas

How does it work?

When comparing a roundabout to a signal, studies show that roundabouts provide a 90 percent reduction in fatal crashes and a 75 percent reduction in injury crashes. Roundabouts improve pedestrian safety offering two simple crossings of one-way traffic moving at much slower speeds.



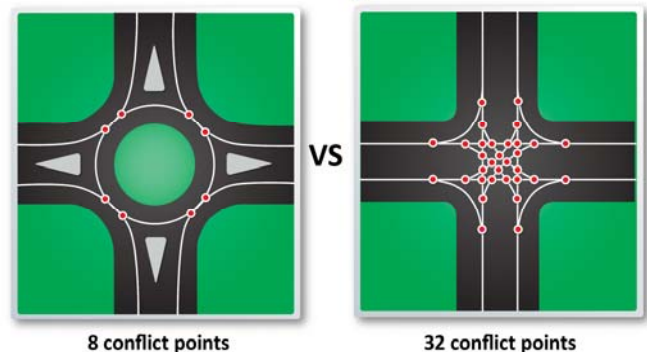
Roundabouts vs. Traffic Circles

Many people believe roundabouts and traffic circles are the same. However, there are many differences between the two.

Roundabouts are designed to be as small as practical to accommodate continuous, slow-moving traffic. Entering traffic must yield to circulating traffic.

Traffic Circles vary significantly in size and traffic speeds. Entering traffic or circulating traffic may be stop-controlled with signals. There may even be parking within the circle or a pedestrian attraction in the center island.

Roundabouts reduce vehicle conflicts



How do I learn more?

To learn more about this innovation, visit www.penndot.pa.gov/stic or email penndotstic@pa.gov.