

What is a roundabout?

A roundabout is an intersection where traffic travels around a central island in a counter-clockwise direction. Vehicles entering or exiting the roundabout must yield to vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Figure 1 presents the elements of a roundabout.

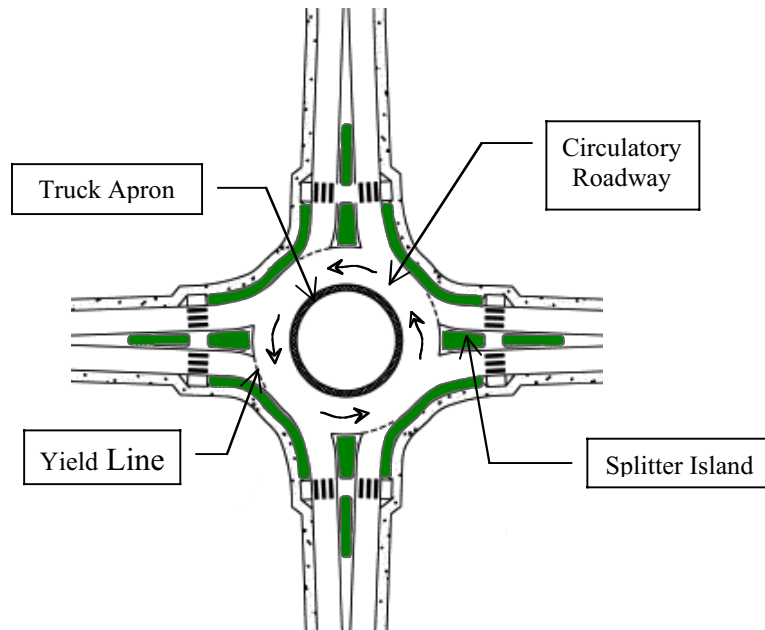


Figure 1: Elements of a Roundabout

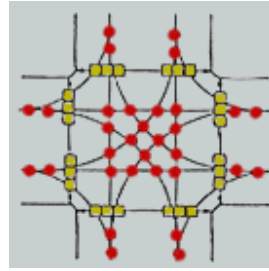
What are the advantages of roundabouts?

- **Less Traffic Conflict:**
Figure 2 compares the conflict points between a conventional intersection and a modern roundabout. The lower number of conflict points translates to less potential for accidents.
- **Greater safety⁽¹⁾:**
Primarily achieved by slower speeds and elimination of left turns. Design elements of the roundabouts cause drivers to reduce their speeds.
- **Efficient traffic flow:**
Up to 50% increase in traffic capacity
- **Reduced Pollution and fuel usage:**
Less stops, shorter queues and no left turn storage.
- **Money saved:**
No signal equipment to install or maintain, plus savings in electricity use.
- **Community benefits:**
Traffic calming and enhanced aesthetics by landscaping.

⁽¹⁾ Statistics published by the U.S. Dept. of transportation, Federal Highway Administration shows roundabouts to have the following advantages over conventional intersections:

- 90% reduction in fatalities
- 76% reduction in injuries
- 35% reduction in pedestrian accidents.

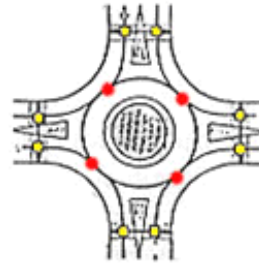
Signalized Intersection



● 32 Vehicle to vehicle conflicts

■ 24 Vehicle to pedestrian conflicts

Roundabout



● 8 Vehicle to vehicle conflicts

■ 8 Vehicle to pedestrian conflicts

Figure 2: Conflict Point Comparison

How to Use a Roundabout

Driving a car

- Slow down as you approach the intersection.
- Yield to pedestrians and bicyclists crossing the roadway.
- Watch for signs and pavement markings.
- Enter the roundabout if gap in traffic is sufficient.
- Drive in a counter-clockwise direction around the roundabout until you reach your exit. Do not stop or pass other vehicles. Figures 3 & 4 show the straight through and left turn movements.
- If you miss your exit, continue around until you return to your exit.

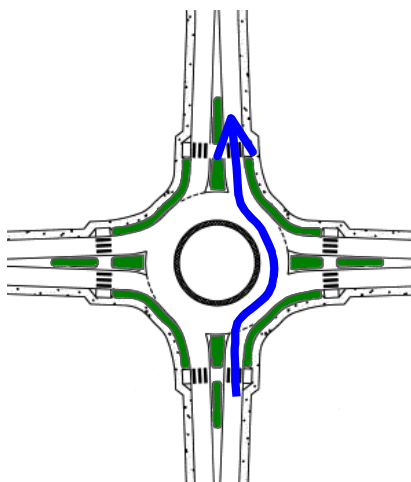


Figure 3

Through Movement in a Roundabout

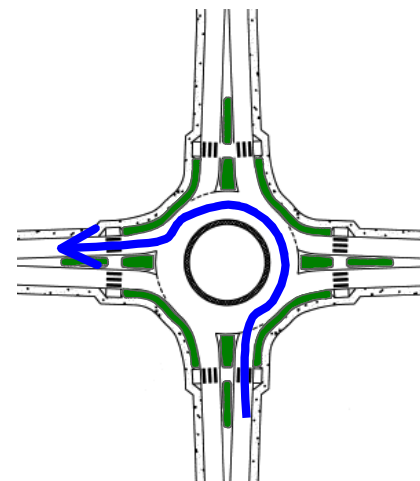


Figure 4

Left Turn Movement in a Roundabout

Emergency vehicles

If within a roundabout when an emergency vehicle approaches, exit the roundabout and pull over to the right. If outside the roundabout, immediately pull over to the right.

Driving a truck or large vehicle

When driving a truck or large vehicle, you may need to use the full width of the roadway, including the mountable concrete truck apron around the central island (See Figure 6). Be mindful of the location of all other users of the roundabouts. Proceed like any other vehicle.

Bicycling

There are three options available to bicyclists:

1. Use exclusive bike lane on La Jolla Hermosa:

You can ride along La Jolla Hermosa Ave, one block east of La Jolla Blvd. where exclusive bicycle lanes are being provided throughout the Length of La Jolla Hermosa, between Turquoise St. to the south and Camino de la Costa to the north. Signing on La Jolla Blvd. directs you to use these exclusive bike lanes.

2. Use Chelsea Street

Chelsea Street, one block west of La Jolla Blvd, is a designated bike route that you could also use.

3. Ride like a car⁽²⁾:

If you are an experienced bicyclist who is comfortable riding in traffic, you may claim the travel lane and ride on the circulatory roadway like a car. Obey the same driving instructions as for cars, watch out for vehicles crossing your path to leave or join the roundabout, and watch out for large vehicles on the roundabout, as they need more space to maneuver.

⁽²⁾ On southbound La Jolla Blvd. between Camino de la Costa and Colima Street and on northbound between Sea Ridge Dr. and Colima St., there is diagonal parking. To prevent collisions between vehicles backing out of the parking stalls and vehicles or bicyclists on La Jolla Blvd., a 7.5-ft. buffer zone is provided. Bikers and other vehicles should not use this buffer zone. It is to be used only by vehicles getting into or out of the diagonal parking stalls (See Figure 5.) Across the street from the diagonal parking, on-street parallel parking is provided with a 6-ft. buffer separating the parking stalls from the travel lane. Similarly, this buffer zone is not for use by bicyclists or vehicles traveling on the boulevard. It is exclusively for use by vehicles getting in or out of the parking stalls (See Figure 5.)

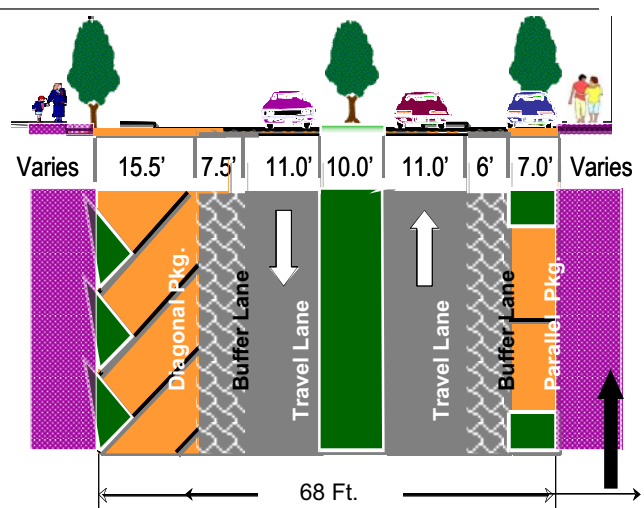


Figure 5

La Jolla Blvd. Cross Section

Walking

Pedestrians have the right-of-way within the crosswalk. However, pedestrians must not suddenly leave a curb or other safe waiting place and walk into the path of a vehicle if it is so close that it is an immediate hazard.

1. Use the marked crosswalks

Do not cross the circulatory roadway to the central island. Crosswalks are marked and signed at each leg of the roundabout about 1 to 2 car lengths away from the roundabout. You may push the pedestrian push button to activate flashing lights embedded in the crosswalk to alert drivers of your presence.

2. Look and listen for approaching traffic

Choose a safe gap in the traffic to cross from the curb ramp to the median opening. Although you have the right-of-way, if approaching vehicles are present, it is best to first satisfy yourself that vehicles have recognized your presence and right to cross.

3. Use the median (splitter) island

It allows you to cross one direction of traffic at a time. Proceed to the other side when it is safe to cross, as shown in Figure 6.

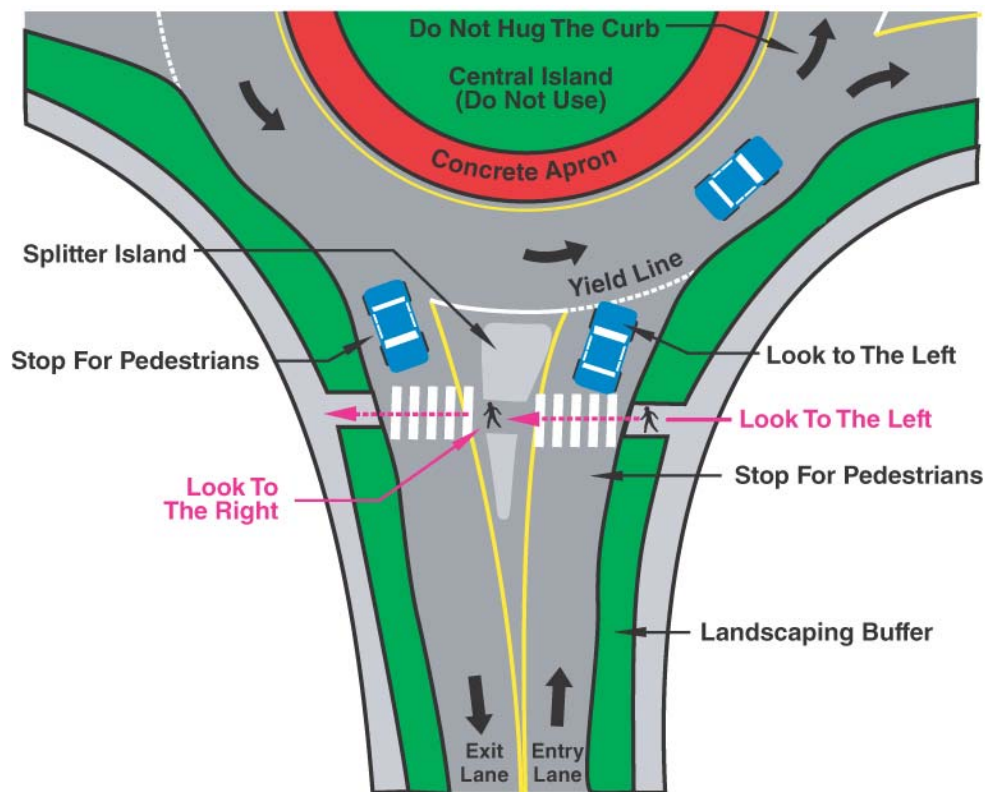


Figure 6

Roundabout Approach