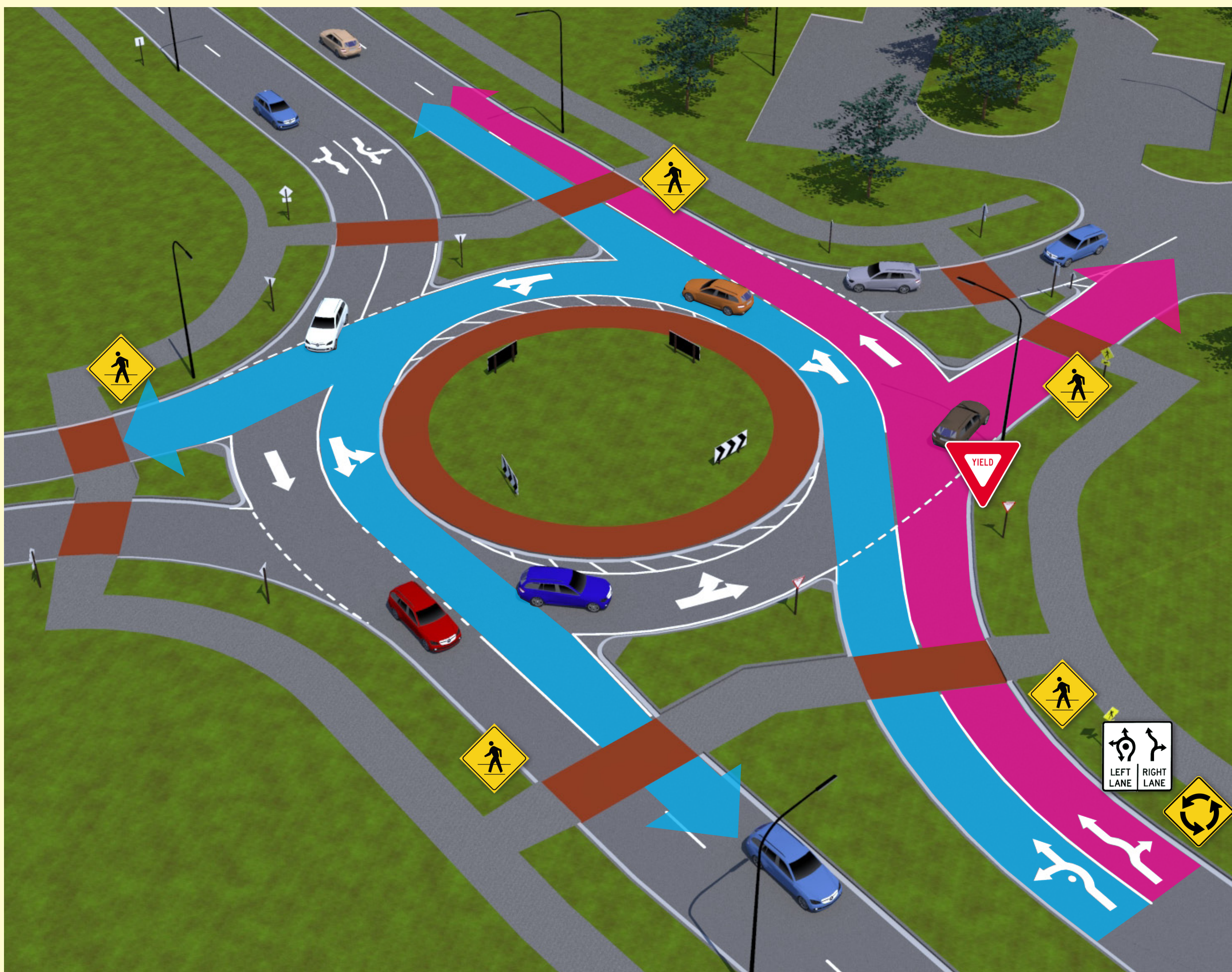
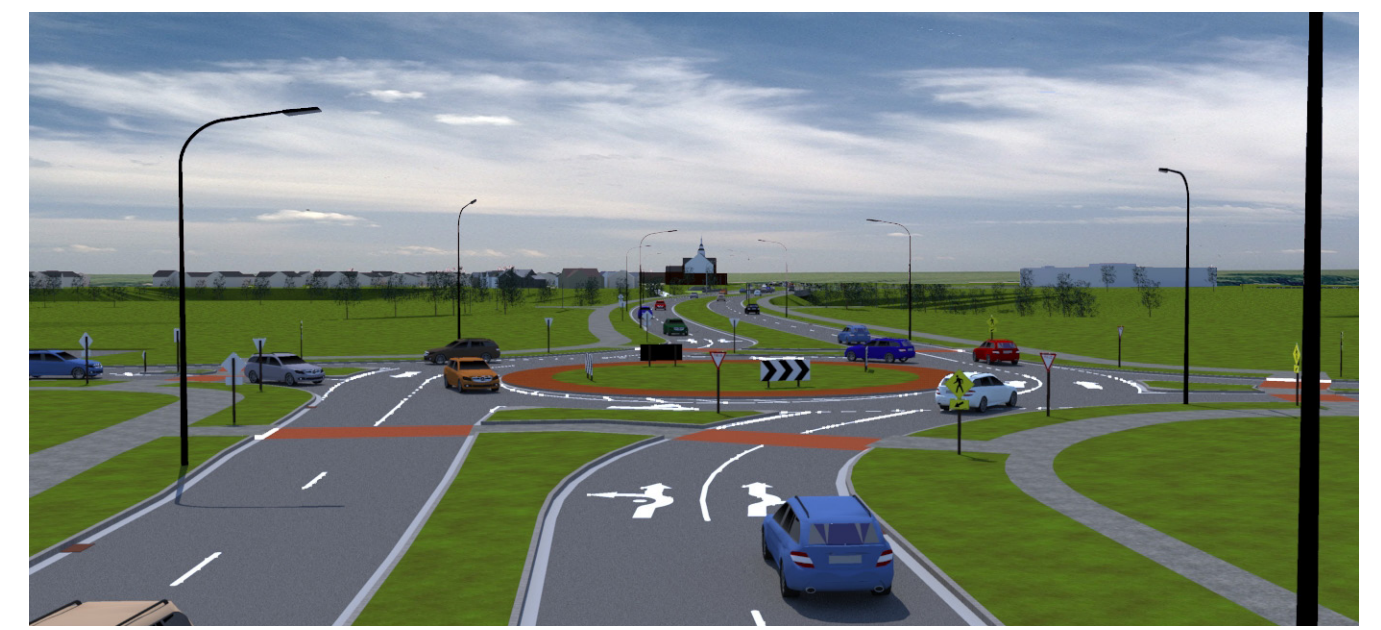


## What is a Roundabout?

A roundabout is a type of circular intersection with yield control of entering traffic, islands on the approaches, and appropriate roadway curvature to reduce vehicle speeds.

Modern roundabouts are different from rotaries and traffic circles. Roundabouts are typically smaller than the large, high-speed rotaries still in use in some parts of the country. In addition, roundabouts are typically larger than neighborhood traffic circles used to calm traffic.



## How to Drive a Roundabout

There are just a few simple guidelines to remember when driving through a roundabout:

- When approaching you will see a yellow “roundabout ahead” sign. Slow down.
- If there’s more than one lane you will see a black and white “lane choice sign” and pavement markings. Choose a lane before entering the roundabout: use the left lane to turn left or make a U-turn or the right lane to turn right. Any lane will allow you to go straight through, unless otherwise directed.

*The image to the left shows travel options for the **left lane** and **right lane**.*

- Yield to pedestrians in the crosswalks.
- At the dashed line yield to vehicles and bicycles circulating the roundabout. Once a gap in traffic appears, merge into the roundabout and proceed to your exit.
- Stay in your lane within the roundabout and use your right-turn signal to indicate your intention to exit. Watch for pedestrians while exiting.
- Always assume trucks need all available space — don’t pass them!
- Clear the roundabout to allow emergency vehicles to pass.

## Roundabout Benefits

Compared to other types of intersections, roundabouts have demonstrated safety and other benefits. *Roundabouts:*

### Improve Traffic Safety

The physical shape of roundabouts eliminate crossing conflicts that are present at conventional intersections, thus reducing the total number of potential conflict points and the most severe of those conflict points.

- More than 90% reduction in fatalities
- 76% reduction in injuries
- 35% reduction in all crashes

### Reduce Congestion

Yield signs reduce the number of vehicles that need to stop and also reduce the time vehicles are stopped.

- Efficient during both peak hours and other times
- Typically less delay

### Reduce Pollution and Fuel Use

Even with heavy volumes, vehicles continue to advance slowly in moving queues rather than coming to a complete stop.

- Fewer stops and hard accelerations
- Less time idling

### Improve Pedestrian Safety

- Pedestrians are accommodated at crosswalks around the perimeter of the roundabout and are provided safe places to pause on islands between traffic.
- Reduced vehicle speeds in and around intersections
- Pedestrians can focus on one traffic stream at a time while crossing, simplifying the process
- Drivers have more time to react to pedestrians since crosswalks are set further back from traffic.

### Save Money

A roundabout typically has lower operating and maintenance costs than a traffic signal.

- Often no signal equipment to install, power, and maintain
- Often less pavement needed

### Complement Surroundings

- Opportunity for attractive landscaping and decorative elements
- Quieter operation

## Oversize Vehicles

Roundabouts are designed to accommodate vehicles of all sizes. Oversize vehicles and vehicles with trailers may straddle both lanes while driving through a roundabout.

Many roundabouts are also designed with a truck apron, a raised section of pavement around the central island that acts as an extra lane for large vehicles. The back wheels of the oversize vehicle can ride up on the truck apron so the truck can easily complete the turn, while the raised portion of concrete discourages use by smaller vehicles.

Because large vehicles may need extra room to complete their turn in a roundabout, drivers should remember never to drive next to large vehicles in a roundabout.

For more information on roundabouts in the City of Marion, please visit [www.cityofmarion.org](http://www.cityofmarion.org)

Information Source: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration



# TRAFFIC ROUNDABOUTS