

In considering the modern roundabout as an intersection alternative, a number of common misconceptions are too-often presumed by the public, elected officials, consultants, or transportation experts who are unfamiliar with this type of intersection control.

Some facts concerning the modern roundabout are as follows:

1. The modern roundabout is significantly different than an old-style traffic circle or rotary.
2. If designed properly, a modern roundabout is safer than a traffic circle or a traditional signalized intersection, and is often used as a calming effect to slow traffic.
3. A roundabout increases a road's capacity as it can handle high traffic volume. It can also require fewer lanes or reduced median width as it can reduce congestion or backups.
4. A roundabout is an effective treatment for a rural intersection where signalization may not be appropriate.
5. A roundabout can provide adequate downstream gaps for motorists entering the roadway from side streets or drives.
6. A roundabout is inexpensive to operate, is easily modifiable, and is low-maintenance.
7. A roundabout safely accommodates high volumes of pedestrians and bicyclists.
8. A roundabout reduces speed and causes fewer backups than stop-and-go traffic.
9. A roundabout can be landscaped to be aesthetically attractive.

THE FACTS ABOUT ROUNDABOUTS

Figure 51-12YY