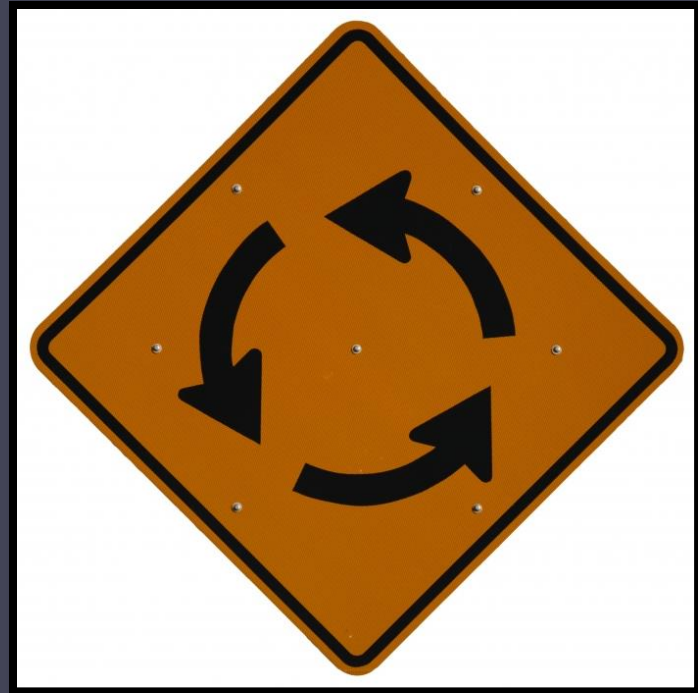


Driving Roundabouts



How to Safely Maneuver through Roundabout Trafficways—
Preparation for the New Roundabout at
State Route 64 and Finzel Rd.

The Village of Whitehouse, Ohio

What are Roundabouts?

- Roundabouts are circular intersections that require all entering traffic to yield at entry.
- Geometric features of a roundabout include channelized approaches, geometric curvature that ensures travel speeds within the roundabout are around 30mph or less, and diameters usually between 80ft to 200ft.
- They are designed to be safer and more efficient than a traditional intersection.

What are Roundabouts?

- The geometry creates a low speed (20-30mph) environment inside the circulatory roadway, as well as at the entry and exit locations.
- The geometry also prevents high angle crashes such as “T-bone” and left turn angle crashes.
- Lower angle, low speed crashes tend to be less severe than higher angle, high speed crashes.

Rules for Roundabouts

- Remember these 2 important rules of using a roundabout:
 - **ALWAYS Yield** and
 - **Stay in your lane!**
 - State Law requires motorists to yield to pedestrians waiting to cross at the crosswalk, just like they are to yield to cars in the circulating portion of the roadway.
 - Lane use is very similar to a typical four-way intersection, except for a slight circular adjustment.

Why Roundabouts?

- More efficient operation results from the yield at entry – drivers only have to watch for traffic from the left, and if there is an adequate gap available, they can enter the roundabout without stopping.
- Once in the roundabout, drivers have the right-of-way, so they will not have to stop or yield to exit.
- If the driver does need to yield at entry to traffic inside the roundabout, their delays are brief and typically less than the time they would have been delayed at a traffic signal.

Roundabout Example



Can larger Vehicles Travel through Roundabouts?

- Many highway/freeway roundabouts consider the mix of traffic using the road, and can accommodate vehicles with large turning radii such as trucks, buses, and tractor-trailers.
- Many of these roundabouts provide an area between the roadway and the central island over which the rear wheels of these vehicles can safely go. The area is known as a truck apron.
- Truck aprons are generally composed of a different material than the paved roadway to discourage routine use by smaller vehicles.

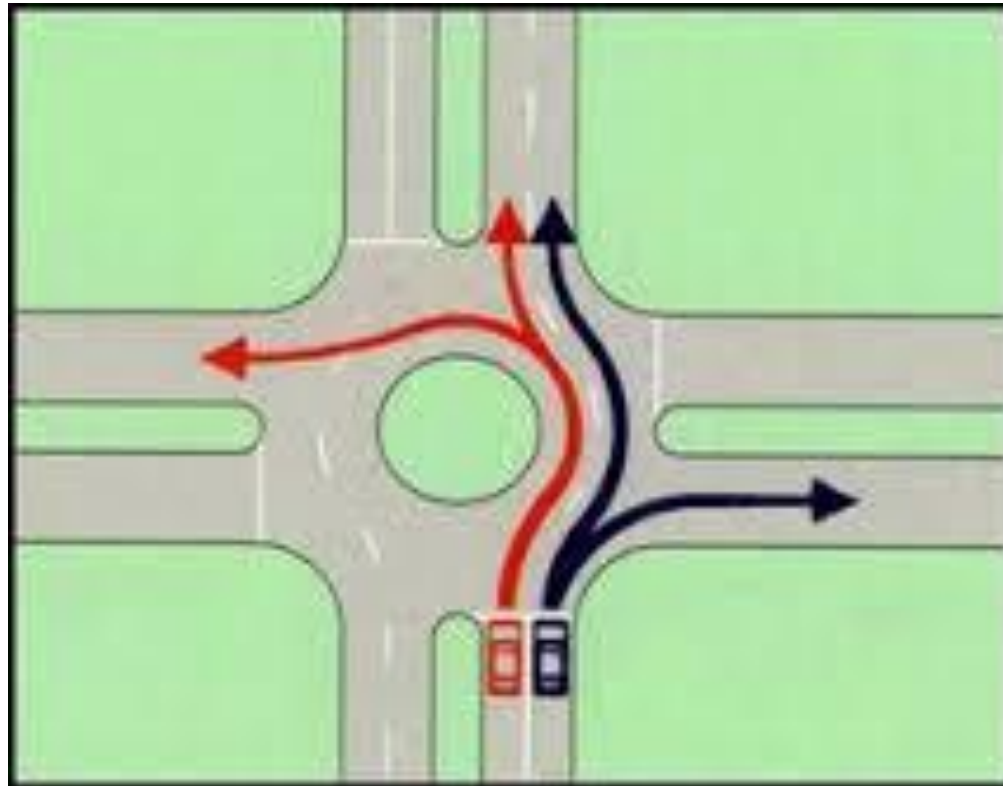
Are Roundabouts safe near Schools?

- Because roundabouts slow vehicle speeds and have safety advantages for both motorists and pedestrians, they are often a good choice near schools.
- Throughout the nation, many roundabouts have been built near schools, including a Nevada state roundabout installed on State Route 88 in front of Douglas High School.

Roundabout Signage



How a Roundabout Works



How do you Navigate through a Roundabout?

- Roundabouts do not require new driving skills. Entering a roundabout uses many of the same skills as making a right-hand turn out of a driveway.



Step #1 Slow Down

- First, yield to pedestrians/bicyclists, then check for traffic approaching from the left. Wait for a suitable gap in traffic and then proceed into the roadway (in this case, the roundabout).



Step #2 Yield at Entry

- Look to left, and yield to vehicles already inside the roundabout.



Step #3 Keep Moving

- Once in the roundabout, you have the right-of-way



Step #4 Exit the Roundabout

- Use 1st exit to turn right.
- Use 2nd exit to go straight.
- Use 3rd exit to turn left.
- Use 4th exit to make a U-turn.

What to do when Emergency Vehicles enter the Roundabout

- If you have not entered the roundabout when an emergency vehicle with lights and siren activated is in the roundabout, do not enter the roundabout.
- Yield to the emergency vehicle.
- Once the emergency vehicle has passed and it's safe to do so, you may enter the roundabout.

What to do when Emergency Vehicles enter the Roundabout

- If you are already in the roundabout when the emergency vehicle enters with lights and siren activated, continue through and exit the roundabout, and quickly and safely pull to the right side of the roadway **outside** the roundabout to let the emergency vehicle pass.



When is the Roundabout coming to Whitehouse?

- According to the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the construction of the roundabout on SR 64 at Finzel Rd. is scheduled for 2017.
- However, according to ODOT, the roundabout may be constructed as soon as 2015.

Summary

- Remember the 4-Steps to safely navigate the roundabout:
 - Slow Down when approaching the roundabout.
 - Yield to traffic inside the roundabout
 - Enter safely and keep moving once in the roundabout.
 - Exit safely.



- www.youtube.com/watch?v=MywmtskFiiI