Why is Scottsdale installing roundabouts?
Roundabouts can reduce accidents and improve traffic flow at intersections. Cities that have implemented them have reported declines of as much as 75 percent in injury accidents. Roundabouts also can improve the flow of traffic at intersections when used in place of traditional four-way or all way stops. In addition, they function as safely and effectively as traffic signals.

Are roundabouts better than traffic signals for pedestrians?
A roundabout can offer an improved environment for pedestrians compared to a traffic signal. Depending on the number of pedestrians and vehicles that use the intersection. A pedestrian crossing at a roundabout makes two simple crossings of one-way traffic moving at slow speeds. A pedestrian crossing at a traffic signal must contend with vehicles turning right or left on a green light and vehicles turning right on a red light. Vehicles running red lights, usually speeding directly through an intersection, are a danger to pedestrians. Roundabouts will not allow speeding vehicles to proceed straight through an intersection.

Are roundabouts appropriate everywhere?
No. Each intersection must be evaluated individually to determine whether a roundabout, stop signs or a traffic signal is more effective. The volume and speed of traffic, the number of pedestrians using the intersection, and additional factors must be considered.

Can roundabouts accommodate large vehicles such as fire engines, school buses and horse trailers?
Roundabouts are designed specifically to accommodate large vehicles including fire trucks, school buses and trucks with horse trailers. As drivers approach the roundabout, they should stay close to the left side of the entry. As they pass through the roundabout, the vehicle trailer may pass over the special apron around the central island - the apron is designed specifically for this purpose.

What should I do when I am in a roundabout when an emergency vehicle arrives?
If the roadway in the roundabout is wide enough, safely pull to the right and allow the emergency vehicle to pass. However, if there is time, it is generally better to drive out of the roundabout and pull over on the right side of the street.

How about riding a bicycle through a roundabout?
A cyclist has a number of options at a roundabout, and the choice will depend on the cyclist's degree of comfort riding in traffic. The speed of cars through a roundabout is typically 15 to 25 mph, similar to the average speed of an adult bicycle rider. Experienced cyclists choosing to enter the roundabout should stay in the roadway and follow the flow of traffic ; other options include walking the bicycle on adjacent sidewalks or riding on multi-use paths. Cyclists using the roadway should ride near the middle of the lane so that drivers can see them and not attempt to pass them.

Who can I contact if I have questions about roundabouts?
Contact Traffic Engineering at 480-312-7696 or email at roundabouts@ScottsdaleAZ.gov

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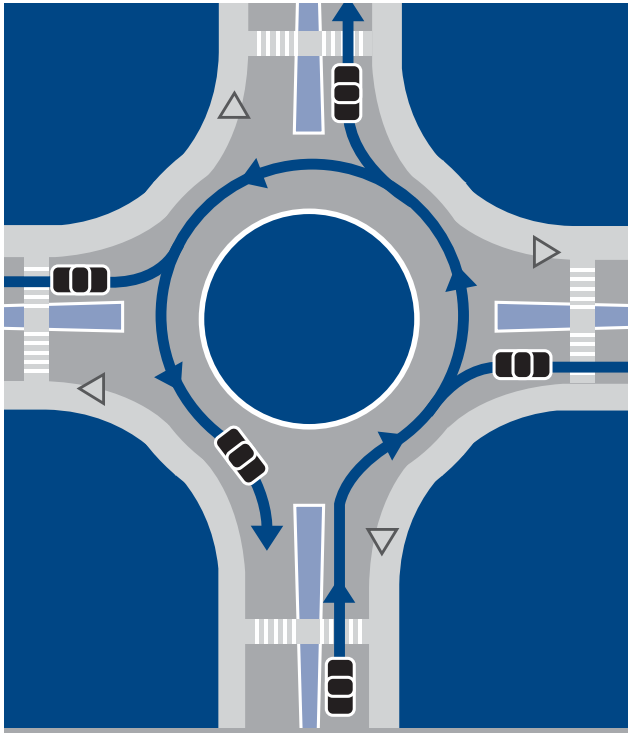

Navigating Roundabouts

CITY OF SCOTTSDALE
ARIZONA

Motorists

Approach
Slow down to the posted speed limit. Yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk; THEY have the right-of-way.

Enter
Yield to vehicles in the roundabout. Wait for a gap in traffic and merge into traffic in the roundabout to the right.

Proceed
Continue through the roundabout until you reach your street. Avoid stopping in the roundabout.

Exit
Signal, then exit the roundabout to your RIGHT. Yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.

Pedestrians

Approach
At the designated pedestrian crosswalk, look LEFT.

Cross
Cross to the raised or painted splitter (see legend) or refuge island. Look RIGHT. Finish crossing to the opposite sidewalk.

Cyclists

Approach
Generally, cyclists should walk their bicycles across the pedestrian crosswalk.

Experienced cyclists may navigate roundabouts like motorists. Do not hug the curb. Ride in the middle of the lane to prevent vehicles from passing you. Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks.