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Tips for navigating a Roundabout

- Slow down when approaching a roundabout
- Choose the proper lane before entering the roundabout. Keep your vehicle in the same lane as you enter and exit the roundabout.
- Stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk.
- Yield to all traffic on your left before entering the roundabout.
- Enter the roundabout when there is a safe gap in traffic.
- Keep your speed low and stay in your lane.
- Large vehicles need more space in a roundabout. Be cautious and avoid driving next to or passing large trucks while approaching and maneuvering through the roundabout.

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ROUNDBABOUTS

State Route 247 & Broadway in Bibb County

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Cover photo: Westover Blvd from Albany Mall to
N. Ledo in Dougherty County

Roundabout

One of Georgia DOT's focus areas is intersection safety. Nearly one-third of fatal and serious injury crashes in Georgia are intersection related and more than 90% are angle collisions. An angle collision occurs when a motorist entering an intersection is struck or strikes a vehicle entering the intersection from an opposing direction or turning in an opposing direction.

To reduce the number and severity of intersection crashes Georgia DOT is installing alternative intersections/interchanges such as reduced conflict U-turns (RCUT), Diverging Diamond Interchanges (DDI), and roundabouts.

A roundabout is a circular intersection where drivers travel counterclockwise around a center island. There are no traffic signals or stop signs in a modern roundabout. Drivers entering the circulatory roundabout must yield before merging into traffic in the roundabout. Drivers may then enter the intersection and exit at their desired street by making a right turn.

There are three types of roundabouts: mini (single-lane with small central island), single-lane, and multi-lane. Other circular intersections that do not meet this definition are considered "traffic circles" or "rotary intersections". Georgia DOT does not construct traffic circles or rotary intersections.

User Safety

Roundabouts allow drivers to only turn right, eliminating left turns, which at intersections are often the cause of many of the serious wrecks. Roundabouts are also more efficient because they keep traffic moving from all directions at an almost constant rate. Wrecks at roundabouts are rare and usually only include rear-end wrecks or side swipes from drivers entering the roundabout.

Roundabout Efficiency

A roundabout uses yield control, allowing the intersection traffic to enter the intersection and continue circulating without the stop condition requirement normally associated with stop sign-controlled intersections. The roundabout configuration typically results in a reduction in intersection delay as compared to a stop-controlled intersection.

Challenges of a Roundabout

- Generally higher upfront cost to construct.
- Sometimes a larger right-of-way footprint is required at the intersection.
- Driver education may be needed if roundabouts are new to the area.
- Requires lighting.

Benefits Roundabouts

- Significant safety benefits, including fewer and less severe conflict points compared to a traditional intersection.
- Generally, roundabouts are much more efficient than other intersection types due to fewer conflicts.
- Promotes lower speeds.
- Possible reduction of noise, air quality impacts, and fuel consumption.
- Little stopping during off-peak periods.
- No signal hardware or maintenance of equipment.
- Provides opportunity for landscaping and/or gateway feature to enhance the community.

1) When approaching a roundabout (**yellow car**), slow down and observe advisory speed limit signs. Stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk. **It's the law.**

2) When entering a roundabout (**yellow car**), yield to traffic already in the circle. Look left and then enter when there is a safe gap in the circulating traffic.

3) When at the roundabout (**blue car**), drive counterclockwise and always obey signs.

4) When inside the roundabout (**blue car**), drive slowly but do not stop. You have the right of way.

