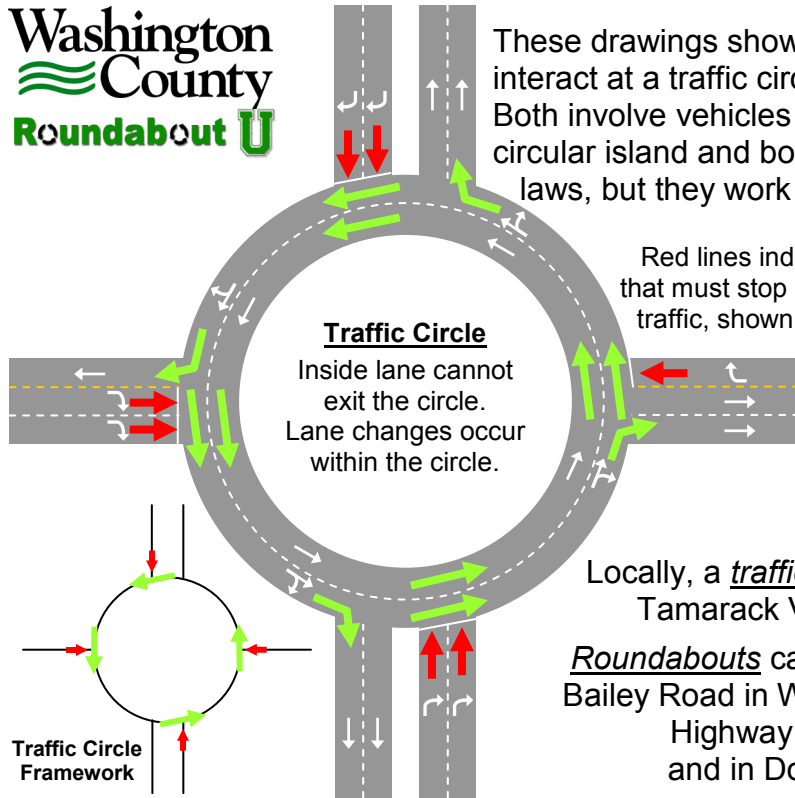


How is a Traffic Circle Different from a Roundabout?

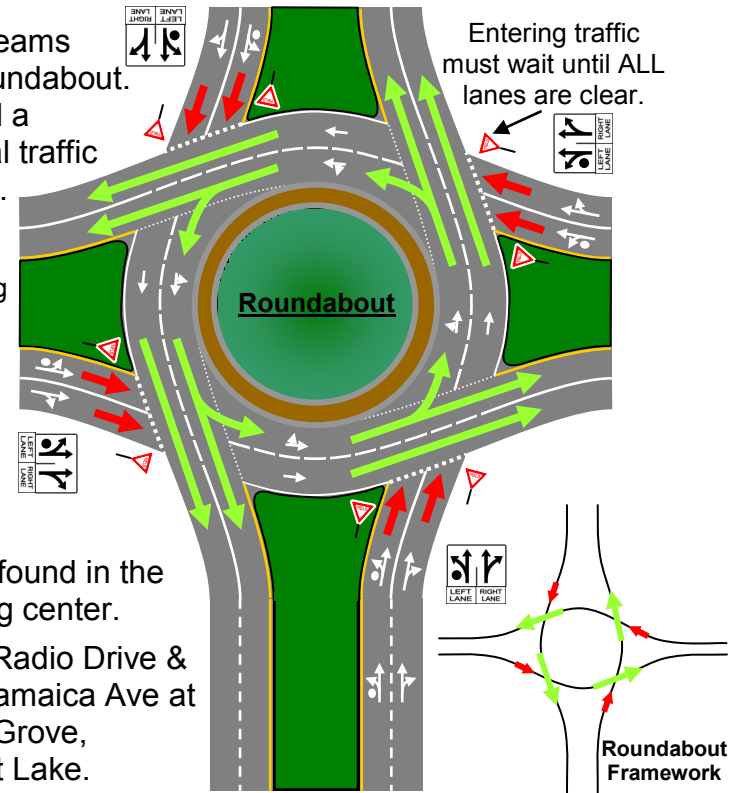


These drawings show how traffic streams interact at a traffic circle versus a roundabout. Both involve vehicles moving around a circular island and both follow normal traffic laws, but they work very differently.



Red lines indicate movements that must stop or yield to crossing traffic, shown by green arrows.

Locally, a traffic circle can be found in the Tamarack Village shopping center.
Roundabouts can be found at Radio Drive & Bailey Road in Woodbury, on Jamaica Ave at Highway 61 in Cottage Grove, and in Downtown Forest Lake.



Traffic Circle Framework

Roundabout Framework

| Traffic Circle | Modern Roundabout |
|---|---|
| A traffic circle is a series of "T intersections" with a circle road. Each "T" intersection may be controlled differently. | A roundabout is a series of "crossing" intersections where the arriving traffic is controlled by yield signs. |
| A traffic circle is striped concentrically, like a "bulls-eye". The inside lane must change lanes to the outside in order to exit the circle. | A roundabout is striped as a spiral. Drivers must choose the proper lane BEFORE entering, just like at a standard intersection. |
| Exiting the circle is always a "turn" movement. Drivers may continue to circulate regardless of which lane they are in. | Exiting the roundabout is a "straight ahead" movement. Staying in the roundabout is a series of left turns. |
| It is OK to enter a traffic circle alongside circulating traffic, like turning right onto a multi-lane road with traffic in the left lane. | Entering traffic must always yield to ALL traffic in the roundabout, regardless of which lane they are in, just like crossing a one-way road. |
| A traffic circle may be large, with speeds rarely less than 30 mph. | A roundabout is generally small; speeds are rarely more than 25 mph. |
| Traffic circles have low capacity and are inefficient; they are used primarily for visual appeal. | Roundabouts are able to handle large volumes of traffic and are used for efficiency and safety. |
| Entry is usually controlled by stop signs, sometimes by yield signs. | Entry is controlled by yield signs for maximum efficiency. |
| The central island may have a park or businesses. | Never cross to the center island of a roundabout. |