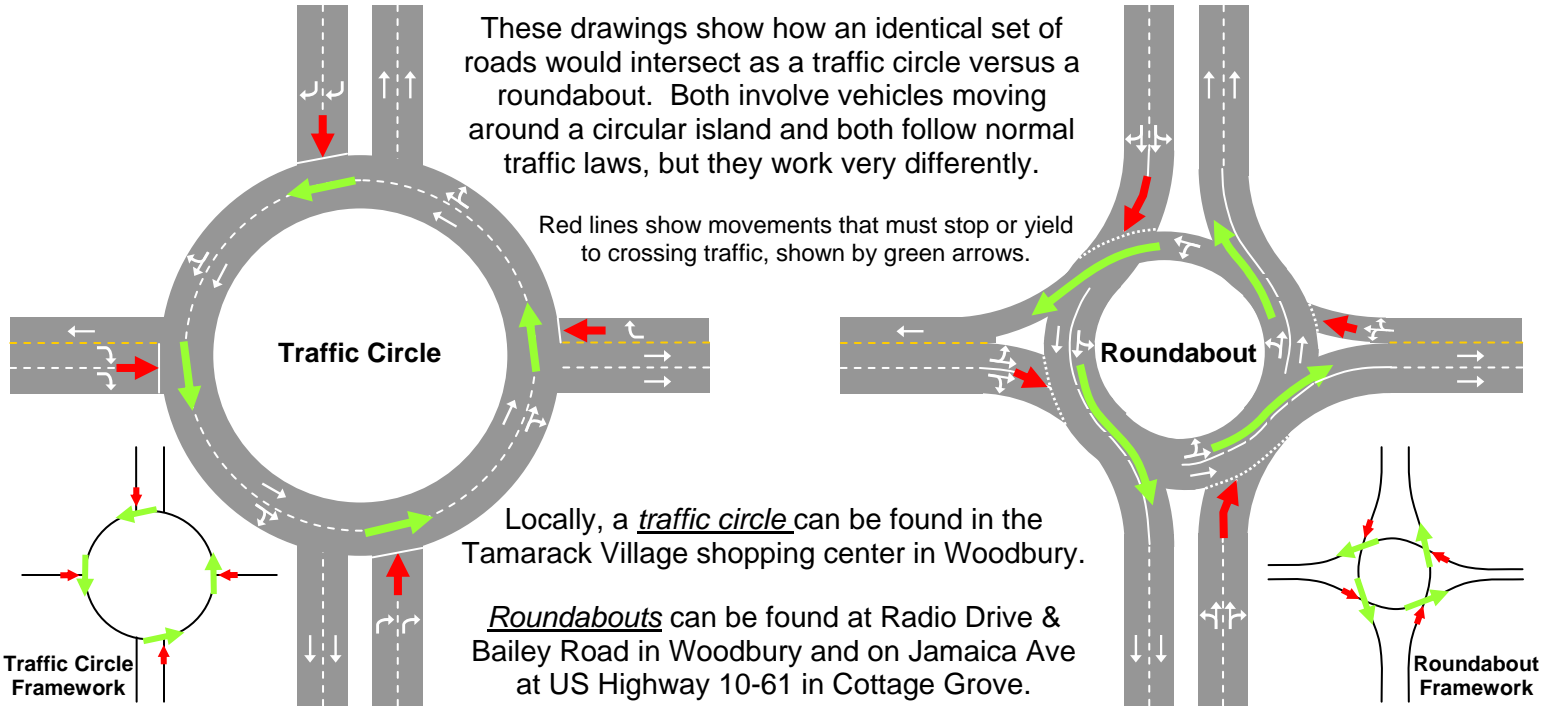


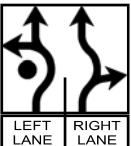
# How is a Traffic Circle Different from a Roundabout?



Traffic Circle	Modern Roundabout
A traffic circle is a series of "T intersections" with a circular road. Each "T" intersection may be controlled differently.	A roundabout is a series of "crossing intersections" where traffic entering the roundabout is controlled by yield signs.
The circle is striped concentrically, like a bulls-eye. The inside lane must change lanes to the outside lane before turning out of the traffic circle.	A multi-lane roundabout is striped as a spiral. Never change lanes in a roundabout. Always choose the correct 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 always a "straight ahead" movement. Staying in the circle is a series of left turns.
It is legal, although risky, to enter a traffic circle when traffic is circulating in the inside lane, just like making a right turn onto a multi-lane road when traffic is flowing 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 where cross traffic does not stop.
A traffic circle may be very large, and circulating speeds are rarely less than 30 mph, with much lower entry speeds.	A roundabout is generally small. Entry and circulating speeds are roughly equal and are rarely more than 25 mph.
Traffic circles have low capacity and are inefficient. Traffic circles are used primarily for visual appeal.	Roundabouts are able to handle large volumes of traffic and are used for efficiency and safety.
Approaches to a traffic circle are usually controlled by stop signs, but sometimes by yield signs or no signs at all.	Approaches to a roundabout are 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.

## How can I tell the difference?

Look for signs that say "ROUNDABOUT" as you approach. →



← Always obey any lane use signs as you approach.

Look for if the striping leads out of the circle, or around it.

*When in doubt, yield to ALL traffic in the circle, including any traffic on the inside lane.*



*For More Information*

Contact the Washington County Public Works Department at (651)-430-4300

Or learn more on the web at [www.roundabout-u.info](http://www.roundabout-u.info)

