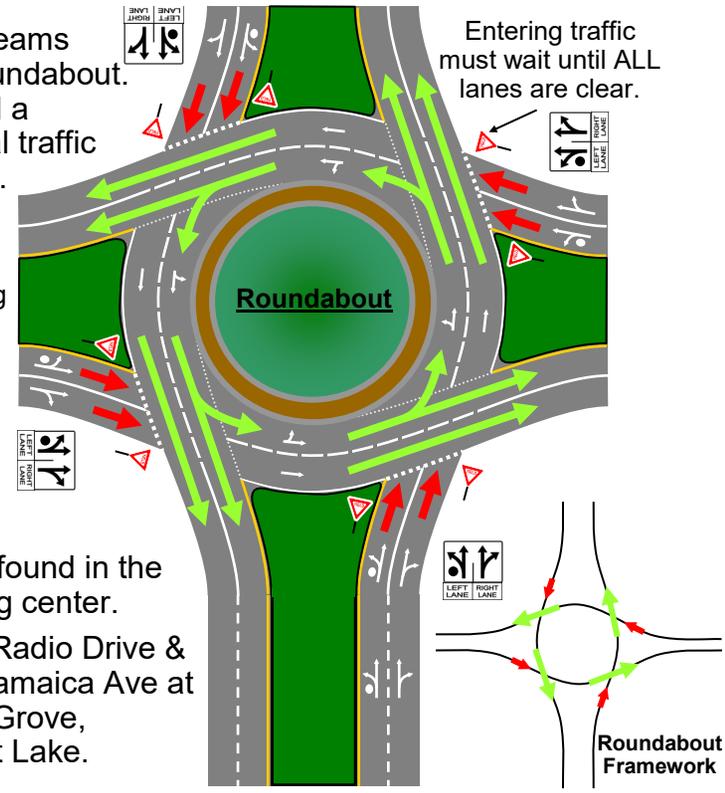
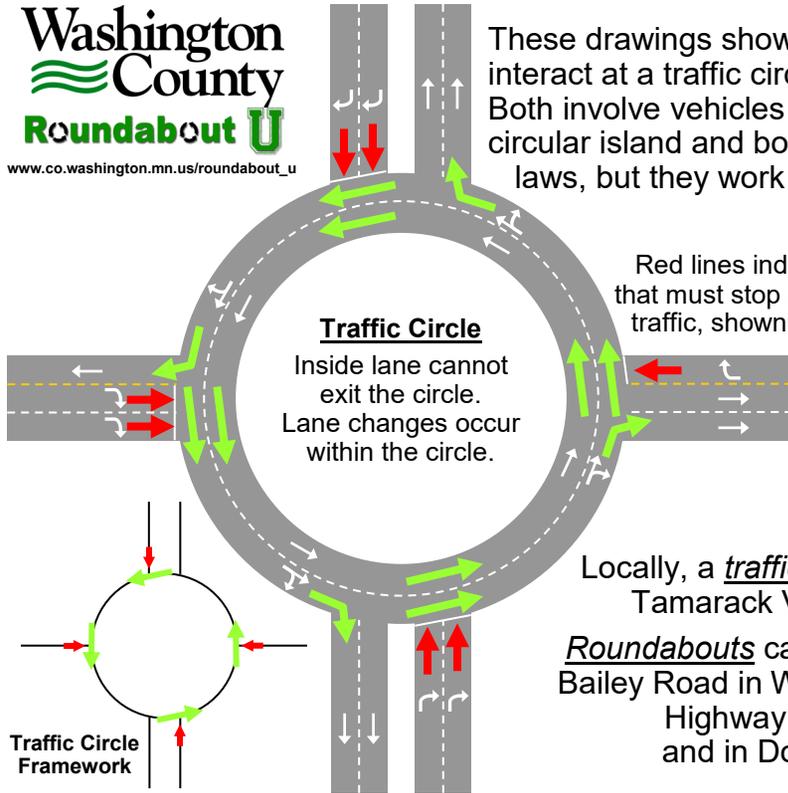


How is a Traffic Circle Different from a Roundabout?



www.co.washington.mn.us/roundabout_u

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.



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	Modern Roundabout
A traffic circle is a series of "T intersections" with a circular road. Each "T" intersection may be controlled differently.	A roundabout consists of two pairs of one-way roads that cross each other, with a circular island between the two pairs of roadways.
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 like 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.
Use a turn signal to exit a traffic circle, because exiting a traffic circle is considered a right turn.	Do not use a turn signal to exit a roundabout, because exiting a roundabout is considered a "straight-ahead" movement.
It is OK to enter a traffic circle alongside circulating traffic, like making a right turn onto a multi-lane road alongside traffic in the left lane.	Entering traffic must always yield to ALL traffic from the left, regardless of lane position. Entering traffic is <u>crossing</u> a one-way road.
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.
The central island may have a park or businesses.	Never cross to the center island of a roundabout.