



## How to drive in a Roundabout



Artist rendering of Kietzke Lane/Neil Road Roundabout

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### Simple tips for driving a roundabout

1	Slow down
2	Watch for pedestrians as you approach the roundabout
3	Look to your left when entering a roundabout and yield to vehicles in the roundabout
4	Do not stop in the roundabout
5	Use your directional signal to exit

### The Modern Roundabout

Nevada introduced the modern roundabout to America in the spring of 1990 by constructing the first circular intersection in Summerlin, a suburb of Las Vegas. Still many drivers in Nevada are unfamiliar with them despite the many benefits offered by the modern roundabout.

New roundabouts have been constructed at Kietzke Lane & Neil Road in Reno and at Eagle Canyon and La Posada Drives off the Pyramid Highway. These roundabouts have improved traffic flow and safety on these roadways.

Modern roundabouts offer many proven benefits: improved safety, reduction in delays and lower maintenance costs. Roundabouts can be a single lane or multi-lane intersection. Studies have shown roundabouts reduce vehicle collisions by 39% and injury producing accidents by 76%. Roundabouts also improve traffic flow when replacing stop signs or traffic signals at intersections by as much as 75%. There are significant savings in maintenance costs of up to \$5000 annually versus the costs associated with traffic signals.

This brochure provides you with information about how to safely drive in a roundabout. An instructional video is available on [rtcwashoe.com](http://rtcwashoe.com) or at any Washoe County library.

To learn more visit [rtcwashoe.com](http://rtcwashoe.com) and click the Streets and Highways tab for information on Roundabouts. To obtain additional copies of this brochure or the instructional video, e-mail Michael Moreno, RTC Community Relations at [mmoreno@rtcwashoe.com](mailto:mmoreno@rtcwashoe.com) or call 775-335-1869.

**THIS IS YOUR RTC.**

## Bicyclists Using the Roundabout

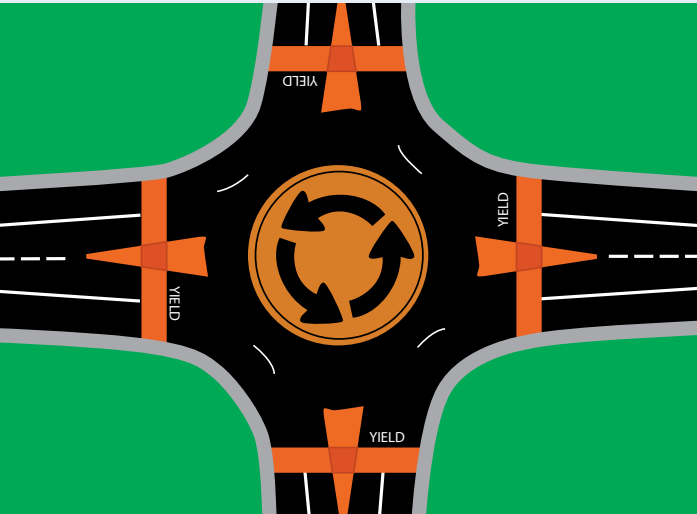
Bicyclists can ride the roundabout either using the traffic lanes or the pedestrian walkways.

Bicyclists follow the same rules as vehicles when using traffic lanes.

## Rules for Pedestrians

Never walk through the center of a roundabout.

Use the designated crosswalks and watch for vehicles.



A roundabout is a circular intersection where traffic flows around a center island. The unique one-way design of roundabouts also accommodates the turning radius of large vehicles, like semi-trucks and buses.

## Roundabout Signs

Here is a sampling of roundabout signs that are posted throughout the roundabout to help guide and assist drivers.



# FAQ's

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Roundabouts, rotaries, traffic circles — they're all the same, aren't they?

They are not all the same. Other than sharing a circular shape, a modern roundabout operates much differently than other traffic circles, including rotaries (large traffic circles found mostly in Europe). A modern roundabout requires entering traffic to yield the right-of-way to motorists already in the roundabout. This keeps the flow of vehicles in the roundabout constantly moving and prevents much of the gridlock that plagues traffic circles and rotaries. Modern roundabouts are also much smaller than circles and thus operate at safer, slower speeds.

### Aren't traffic signals safer than roundabouts for pedestrians?

In many cases a roundabout can offer a safer environment for pedestrians than a traffic signal because the pedestrian crossing at a roundabout is reduced to two simple crossings of one-way traffic moving at slow speeds. A pedestrian crossing at a traffic signal still needs to contend with turning vehicles especially right on red and vehicles running the red light which often result in injuries or fatalities to pedestrians.

### Are there other benefits?

Because roundabouts improve the efficiency of traffic flow, they also reduce vehicle emissions and fuel consumption. Studies have shown roundabouts can produce about a 30% reduction in emissions and fuel consumption compared to traffic signal and stop sign control. And roundabouts can enhance aesthetics by providing landscaping opportunities.

## Do drivers favor roundabouts?

Some drivers may be skeptical, or even opposed, to roundabouts when they are proposed. However, opinions quickly change when drivers become familiar with roundabouts. Studies have shown that prior to a roundabout installation about 30% of drivers supported its installation, after one year follow-up surveys found the level of public support increased to about 70 percent on average.

## Driving Rules of the Road.

- When entering a roundabout, traffic must slow down and yield to vehicles already in the roundabout. Enter the roundabout when there is a safe gap in the traffic.
- If you need to make a right turn at the intersection, get in the right lane as designated by the roundabout signs and markings, stay in the outside right lane, signal and make your exit.
- If you need to make a left turn at the intersection, get in the appropriate lane as designated by the roundabout signs and markings, enter and stay in the designated lane, signal and make your exit.
- If you need to go straight at the intersection, get in the appropriate lane as designated by the roundabout signs and markings, enter and stay in the designated lane, signal and make your exit.
- If you cannot safely move into the exit lane just continue around the roundabout and move to the exit when safe.
- When an emergency vehicle approaches, exit the roundabout at the nearest exit and pull over to the right and stop. Do not stop in the roundabout as you might block the path of a large emergency vehicle.