



BrightonSM

ROUNDAABOUTS

Transportation Update

March 2016

Getting Around

Now that we have a few years under our belts, it's about time to check in on the operation of our roundabouts. In 2003 we needed a solution for a very high accident area including Kuner Road, US85 on and off ramps, and State Highway 7. The accidents were not only frequent but severe because of the nature of the cross traffic being from both directions and at 90 degrees to the side road traffic.

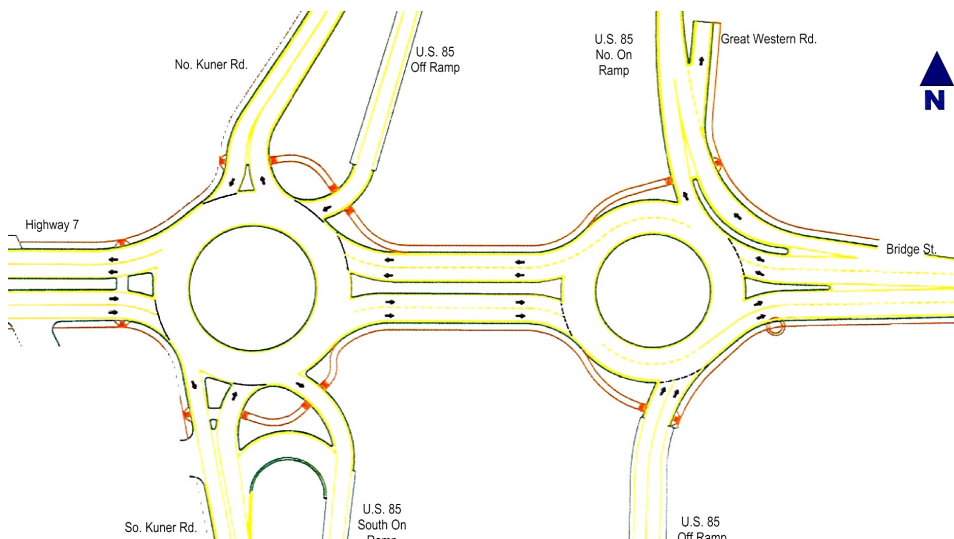
When the roundabouts were designed there were experts from around the world involved with the final selection of how they needed to operate. The issue of having so many entry and exit points made it very difficult to fit everything in. One of the bigger issues is keeping drivers operating at a consistent speed. To do this there is a certain distance we need drivers to be able to see but not so far as they feel they can drive faster. We also want to avoid a driver being hesitant to enter the roundabout due to seeing a car approaching from the opposite side of the roundabout when it is better to keep moving. Being hesitant causes the traffic flow to be interrupted and prevents the smooth flow of vehicles.

When the roundabouts were installed there was a large decrease in the severity of accidents and a slight decrease in the number of accidents. Over time the number of accidents continued to decrease and the severity remained low. The result is a much safer way to get around a very busy area.

"In no roundabout way, roundabouts are safer."

US 85 and SH7 Roundabout

The Brighton roundabouts are two-lane except where the Highway 7 lanes cross from eastbound to westbound or from westbound to eastbound.



Basics

- Don't stop in the roundabout
- Look to your left when entering
- Merge smoothly
- Limit lane changes
- Generally exit from the right lane
- Abide by traffic signs and street markings

Roundabout Layout

Issues and Ideas

"I can't see with all the landscaping in the center." - The sight distance is checked and adjusted from time to time to make sure there is enough distance for drivers to stop if there is a problem. Remember to look to the left and merge smoothly into the flow of the roundabout.

"I'm not sure the drivers coming in are going to stop." - The incoming traffic is required to yield. Remember that they don't need to come to a complete stop. Move at a consistent reasonable speed and very seldom will someone enter the roundabout too close to you.

"Trucks don't fit in the roundabout. I'm afraid they will come into my lane." - Do not pass trucks in the roundabout. They need both lanes to maneuver safely. The roundabout is designed so that vehicles need to yield to trucks in the roundabout.

"The roundabouts come to a standstill when there is a train crossing Bridge Street." - The train crossing stops the traffic on Bridge Street as it would if there were a signal instead of the roundabout. There is a sign and lane markings to help keep a clear lane for the vehicles exiting off of northbound US85 to go west on SH7/Bridge Street. PLEASE KEEP THIS LANE CLEAR.

Remember

Slow steady speeds are a help to you and the other driver in the roundabout.

Avoid lane changes but generally exit from the outside lane.

Enjoy the trip.

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information or to alert us to an issue

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Visit us on the web at
www.brightonco.gov

Check out the video at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwNve97oO_8

