

## Why Construct Roundabouts and Traffic Circles?

Using roundabouts and traffic circles as a way to manage traffic at some intersections can offer several benefits.

- **Safety.** Studies have shown that the severity of accidents is reduced when comparing roundabouts and traffic circles with conventional signalized intersections. A signalized intersection has 22 conflict points or, in other words, 22 spots in the intersection where vehicles can collide. Roundabouts have eight conflict points and traffic circles have just four.
- **Reduced Delay.** Since drivers are encouraged to yield rather than to stop when entering the circular intersection, delay is significantly reduced.
- **Aesthetics.** The island in the center of the intersection provides an opportunity to beautify the intersection with landscaping.
- **Environmental.** Reducing delay decreases fuel consumption and air pollution.

Other informational brochures available in this series:

- **Speed Limits**
- **Pedestrian Signals**
- **Traffic Signals**
- **Traffic Control Signs**
- **Stop Signs**



## Roundabouts and Traffic Circles

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## Roundabouts and Traffic Circles

Negotiating roundabouts and traffic circles are becoming more and more common for drivers in Lenexa. Increased safety and the ability to travel through the intersection more quickly are just two reasons why more and more of these circular intersections are being constructed.

A roundabout is a one-way circular intersection that directs traffic around a central island without the use of traffic signals.



*Roundabout at Prairie Star Parkway and Monticello Road*

A traffic circle in Lenexa operates in much the same way as a roundabout. However, a traffic circle is a smaller version of a roundabout and is used more frequently in residential neighborhoods.



*Traffic Circle located at 91st Street and Haskins*

### *How do I drive a roundabout?*

As you approach the roundabout, slow down and be prepared to stop for any pedestrians and bicyclists that may be in the crosswalk. As you enter the roundabout, yield to traffic that is already circulating but do not stop if it is clear. When a gap in traffic appears to the left, enter the roundabout by turning to the right and follow the circle until you reach your exit. As you approach the road in which you'd like to exit, turn your right turn signal indication on and proceed to exit while being mindful of pedestrians and bicyclists. Left turns are made by traveling around

the central island until you approach the appropriate exit.

### *How do I drive a traffic circle?*

A traffic circle in Lenexa is driven in much the same way as a roundabout. Slow down as you approach the intersection and yield to pedestrians and bicyclists. When entering the traffic circle, yield to vehicles already circulating in the intersection. Enter the circle by turning to the right and follow the circle until you reach your appropriate exit. Please note, the instructions described above apply only to traffic circles in Lenexa. Traffic circles in other communities may operate differently.



*Traffic Circle on Falcon Ridge Drive and Pine Street*