

Roundabout Basics

The City of Margate's roundabout is under construction and is anticipated to open in late 2007. Its location is at Margate Boulevard and 58th Avenue.

Roundabouts are traffic calming devices that serve as a way to control traffic at intersections. Parkland, Tamarac and Boca Raton are some of the cities in our area that also feature roundabouts.

What is a roundabout? An alternative to the traditional (signalized) intersection,

a roundabout is a circular intersection with a central island that is gaining popularity in the United States. Roundabouts increase safety, limit speed, encourage smooth traffic flow, and improve street appearance. We hope the information provided here will help you become familiar with how to navigate a roundabout. Please visit our web site for more information on the Margate Boulevard Streetscape Project:

www.margatecra.org.

How to Use A Roundabout



Counterclockwise Traffic Flow

You're approaching a roundabout. Now what?

If you are...

...in a car or truck:

- Enter the roundabout in a counterclockwise motion (to the right). NEVER go left in the roundabout.
- Slow down. Yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.
- Look left. When there's a large enough gap in the traffic, enter the roundabout. You must yield to the traffic inside the roundabout.
- Travel counter-clockwise until you reach your exit. Turn on your right turn signal, and exit the roundabout.
- Yield to large vehicles in the roundabout - they need more time to maneuver.
- Watch out for bicycles. Do not try to pass them in the roundabout.

...walking:

- Use designated walkways and crosswalks. You have the right of way, but keep an eye out for cars, trucks and bicycles.
- NEVER cross to the center island. There are no designated crosswalks to the island and attempting to cross to it could put you in grave danger of colliding with a vehicle.

...riding a bicycle:

- You have two options: ride with traffic (following the guidelines for cars), or get off your bicycle and walk your bike at designated crosswalks (following the guidelines for pedestrians).



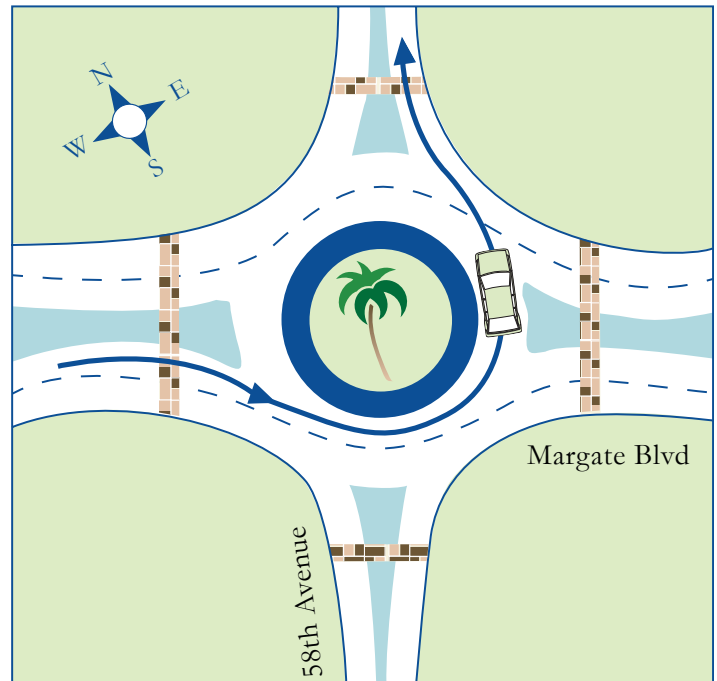
Roundabout Tips

- Slow down as you approach the roundabout.
- Vehicles (including bicycles) inside the roundabout and pedestrians always have the right of way.
- Before entering the roundabout, look left. Proceed when there is an opening in traffic.
- Do not stop inside the roundabout. When you are inside, you have the right of way.

Because the only movement allowed upon entry or exit from a roundabout is a right turn, the occurrence of crashes that result in injury is substantially reduced. Small-angle collisions, the type of collisions that can occur as a result of a right-hand turn, are typically less severe than other types of collisions.



Example: Driving straight through a roundabout



Example: Left hand turn through a roundabout

Benefits of a roundabout

Lives saved:

- 76% reduction in injury crashes
- 30-40% reduction in pedestrian crashes
- 75% fewer conflict points than 4-way intersections

Slower vehicle speeds (under 30 mph):

- Drivers have more time to judge and react to other cars or pedestrians
- Advantageous to older and novice drivers
- Reduces the severity of crashes
- Keeps pedestrians safer

Efficient traffic flow:

- 30-50% increase in traffic capacity

Reduction in pollution and fuel use:

- Improved traffic flow for intersections that handle a high number of left turns
- Reduced need for storage lanes

Money saved:

- No signal equipment to install and repair
- Savings estimated at an average of \$5,000 per year in electricity and maintenance costs
- Service life of a roundabout is 25 years (vs. the 10-year service life of signal equipment)

Community benefits:

- Traffic calming
- Aesthetic landscaping

