

Benefits of Roundabouts

GREATER SAFETY

Statistically, roundabouts are much safer for drivers and pedestrians than both traffic circles and traditional intersections. Roundabouts have shown to reduce fatal crashes by 90 per cent, injury crashes by 75 per cent, and pedestrian crashes by 30 to 40 per cent. Typically there are fewer injuries and less damage to vehicles because:

- vehicles are moving at slower speeds
- all traffic is moving one-way
- pedestrians crossing roundabouts only have one direction of traffic to cross at a time
- there are fewer potential conflict points for pedestrians and motorists
- drivers only make right turns
- the direction of traffic flow eliminates right-angle and head-on collisions, which occur in other intersections and often cause serious injury

REDUCED DELAY

Roundabouts are an effective way of moving vehicles through an intersection, as there are no left turn delays, no running of red or amber lights and fewer traffic delays. Since motorists do not always have to stop, delays and queues are usually less compared to signalized intersections and four-way stops. This helps to promote a continuous flow of traffic, especially in high traffic areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND FINANCIAL BENEFITS

With reduced delays, roundabouts lessen the air pollution and fuel consumption that idling vehicles cause. For this reason, roundabouts help to support the City of Fredericton's *Green Matters* Campaign. Also, slow moving traffic makes less noise than traffic that must stop and start, speed up and brake. This is a benefit to people living near the intersection.

When societal costs associated with crash incidence are accounted for, roundabouts are often less expensive than other intersection control alternatives. Roundabouts do not usually require periodic maintenance like traffic signals, and there is no need to be concerned with power outages. Plus, increased safety means lower emergency response, health care and other societal costs.