**What are innovative intersections?**

Intersection designs where traffic movements are modified to improve safety, reduce delay, and increase efficiency.

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**Roundabout**

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Roundabouts are not the same as neighborhood traffic circles. Typically, roundabouts are larger and designed for higher speeds than neighborhood traffic circles.

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**What is a roundabout?**

- A circular unsignalized intersection where all traffic moves in a counterclockwise direction around a central island
- Traffic entering the roundabout slows down and yields to traffic already inside the roundabout
- Roundabouts can be designed with one or more circulating lanes
- Design options allow for right turns to be channelized to bypass the circulating lanes

**When should a roundabout be considered?**

- At intersections with heavy left-turn traffic or with similar traffic volumes on each leg
- At intersections with crashes involving conflicting through and left-turn vehicles
- At intersections with limited room for storing vehicles
- At intersections where there are limited nearby driveways
- At locations where vehicles from adjacent intersections will not queue into the roundabout

**What are the benefits of a roundabout?**

- **Improved safety:** Reduces the number of points where vehicles can cross paths and eliminates the potential for right-angle and head-on crashes
- **Increased efficiency:** Yield-controlled design means fewer stops, less delay, and shorter queues for overall improved efficiency
- **Safer Speeds:** Promotes lower vehicle speeds, which gives drivers more time to react
- **Long-term cost effective:** No traffic signal equipment means lower long-term costs for operations and maintenance
- **Aesthetics:** Creates opportunities for landscaping and beautification

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Givens Lane at Progress Street, Blacksburg, VA
Navigating a Roundabout

- Pedestrians use marked crosswalks to safely cross the intersection.
- To turn right, exit onto the first leg.
- Before entering the roundabout, look left, and yield to traffic in the roundabout.
- To turn left, exit onto the third leg.
- To go straight, exit onto the second leg.
- Depending on their level of comfort, cyclists may navigate the intersection using vehicle or pedestrian paths.

Note: For simplicity, only one direction of traffic is shown. Traffic on other roundabout legs follow similar routes.

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