

Why do roundabouts work?

Roundabouts are still relatively new to our area, and are gaining in popularity.

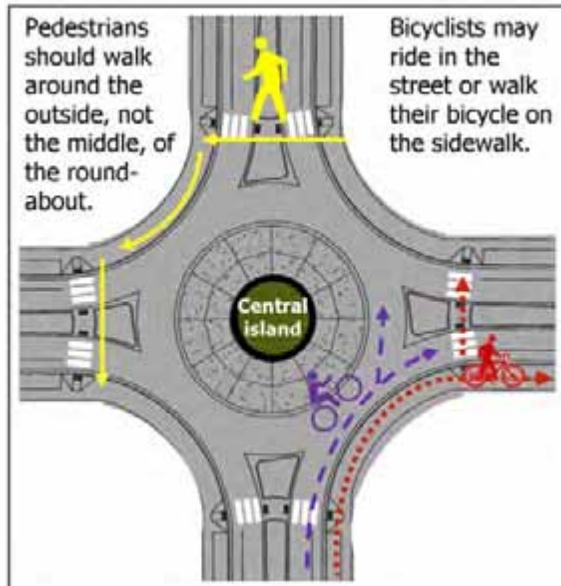
Roundabouts help move traffic smoothly and safely through the intersection, avoiding the stops and starts of traditional traffic signals.

For example, using a roundabout may take a few seconds, but stopping at a red light can take 30 seconds or more.

With all cars traveling in the same direction, roundabouts reduce head-on and t-bone collisions, as well as left turns, one of the most dangerous moves in an intersection.

With no traffic lights to divert drivers' attention upward, roundabouts keep motorists focused on the cars and pedestrians around them.

Cars must yield to pedestrians and bicycles before entering a roundabout, then yield to those already in the circle.



Spokane Valley has three roundabouts



Roundabouts in the City of Spokane Valley



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How does a roundabout work?

Traffic in a roundabout flows in a counter-clockwise direction at about 10-15 m.p.h. Entrances and exits are always to the right of the main traffic flow.

Even if you've never driven in a roundabout before, it's easy to do when you follow a few simple guidelines:

As you approach the roundabout, **SLOW DOWN** to about 10-15 m.p.h. Watch for pedestrians and bicyclists as you approach, and be prepared to stop if necessary.

DO NOT STOP while in the roundabout and do not try to overtake other vehicles, as they may be exiting.

YIELD to traffic that is already in the roundabout, adjusting your speed to enter when there is an opening in traffic.

LEFT TURNS – continue around the center island to the appropriate exit. Remember to signal your intent to turn, and watch for pedestrians and bicyclists.

RIGHT TURNS – Signal your intent by turning on your blinker just before the exit you want to take. Watch for pedestrians and bicyclists.

But what if you miss your street?

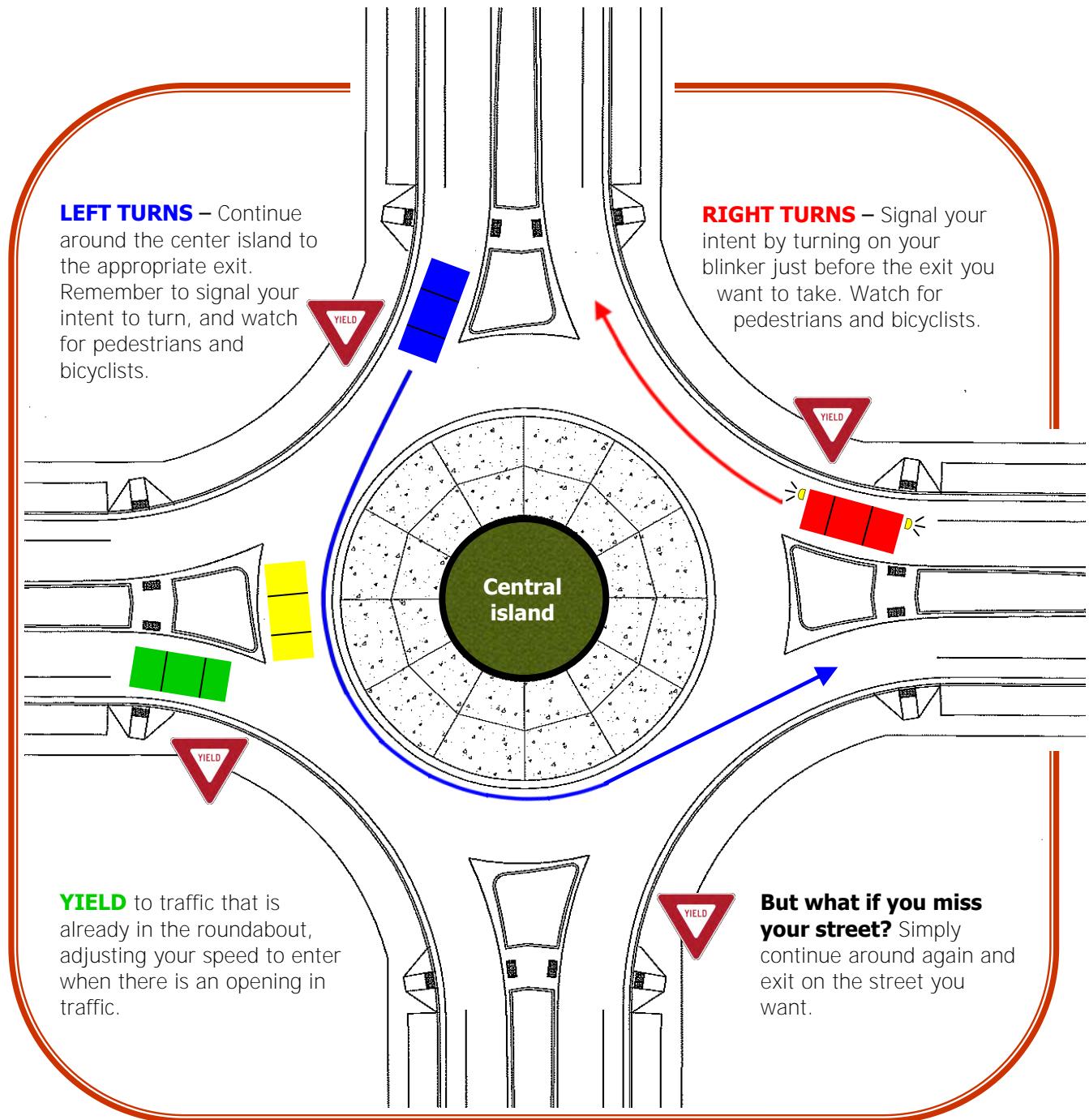
Simply continue around again and exit on the street you want.

That's all there is to it!

PEDESTRIANS and BICYCLISTS— PLEASE NOTE:

Pedestrians should walk around the outside, not the middle of the roundabout. They should first look left for traffic; cross to the refuge island; then look right for traffic before making the final crossing.

Bicyclists may ride in the street if it is safe to do so, or walk their bicycles on the sidewalk.



This diagram depicts a typical four-way roundabout and explains how to maneuver through one.

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