



Roundabouts in **NOVA SCOTIA**



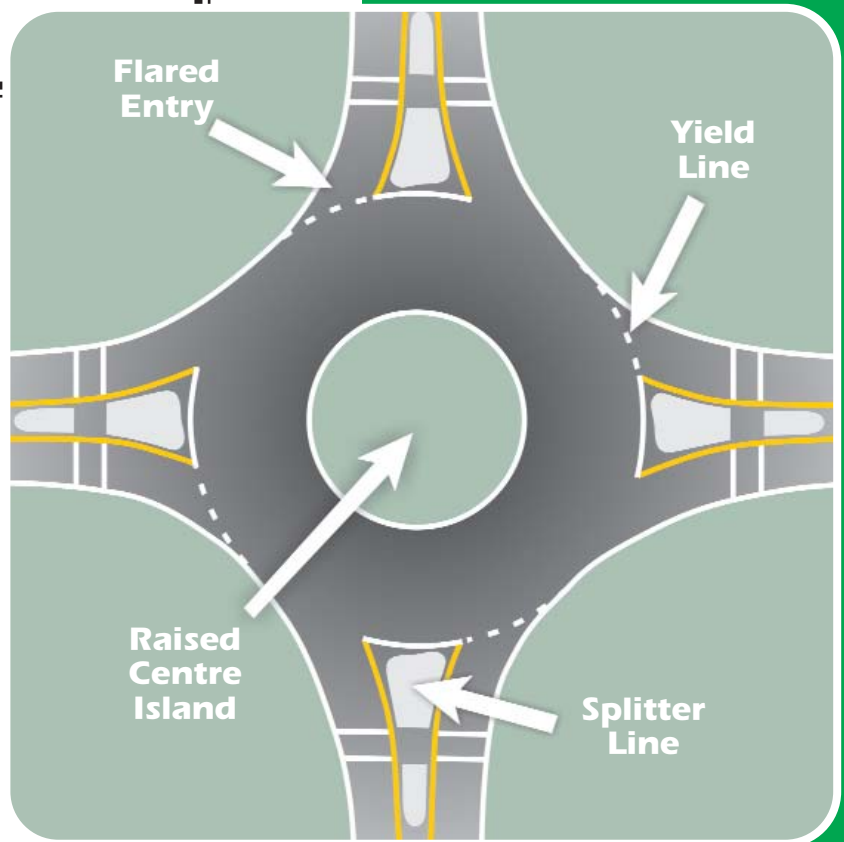
Transportation and Public Works

Overview

The modern roundabout is safe, is economical, and saves travel time. For these reasons, roundabouts are becoming the first choice for traffic engineers around the world for certain intersections.

A roundabout is an intersection designed to control traffic in a circular flow. Traffic moves in a counter-clockwise direction around a central island. Drivers yield at entry to the circle, and drivers within the circle have the right-of-way. Drivers enter the circle when space is available.

Anatomy of a Roundabout



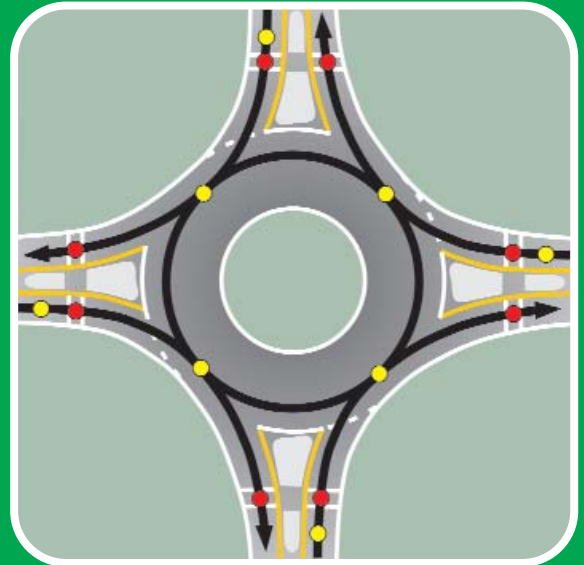
Roundabouts Versus Rotaries

Roundabouts are not the same as rotaries. A rotary can be confusing, because drivers inside the circle stop for cars entering the circle. This slows traffic and creates the possibility for collisions. In contrast, drivers inside a modern roundabout have the right-of-way. Drivers entering the roundabout simply wait for sufficient gaps before entering.

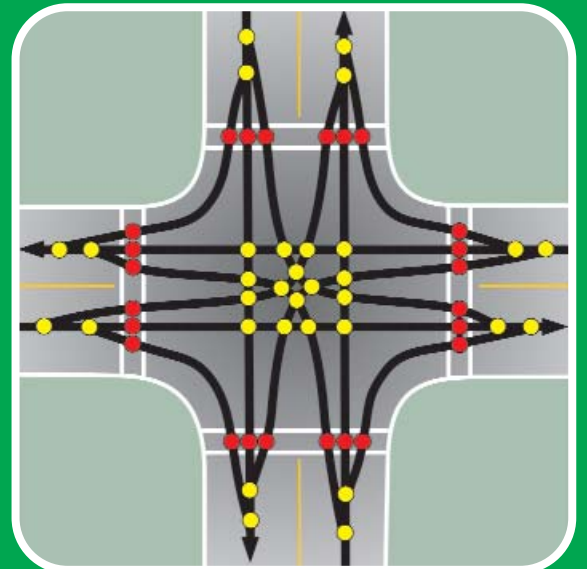
Safety

Roundabouts are proving to be much safer than intersections around the world. Statistics show that roundabouts reduce fatal and injury collisions by as much as 76 per cent in the United States, 75 per cent in Australia, and 86 per cent in Great Britain. Roundabouts are safer because of slower speeds and reduced conflict points – spots where vehicles may collide with each other or with pedestrians.

Modern Roundabout

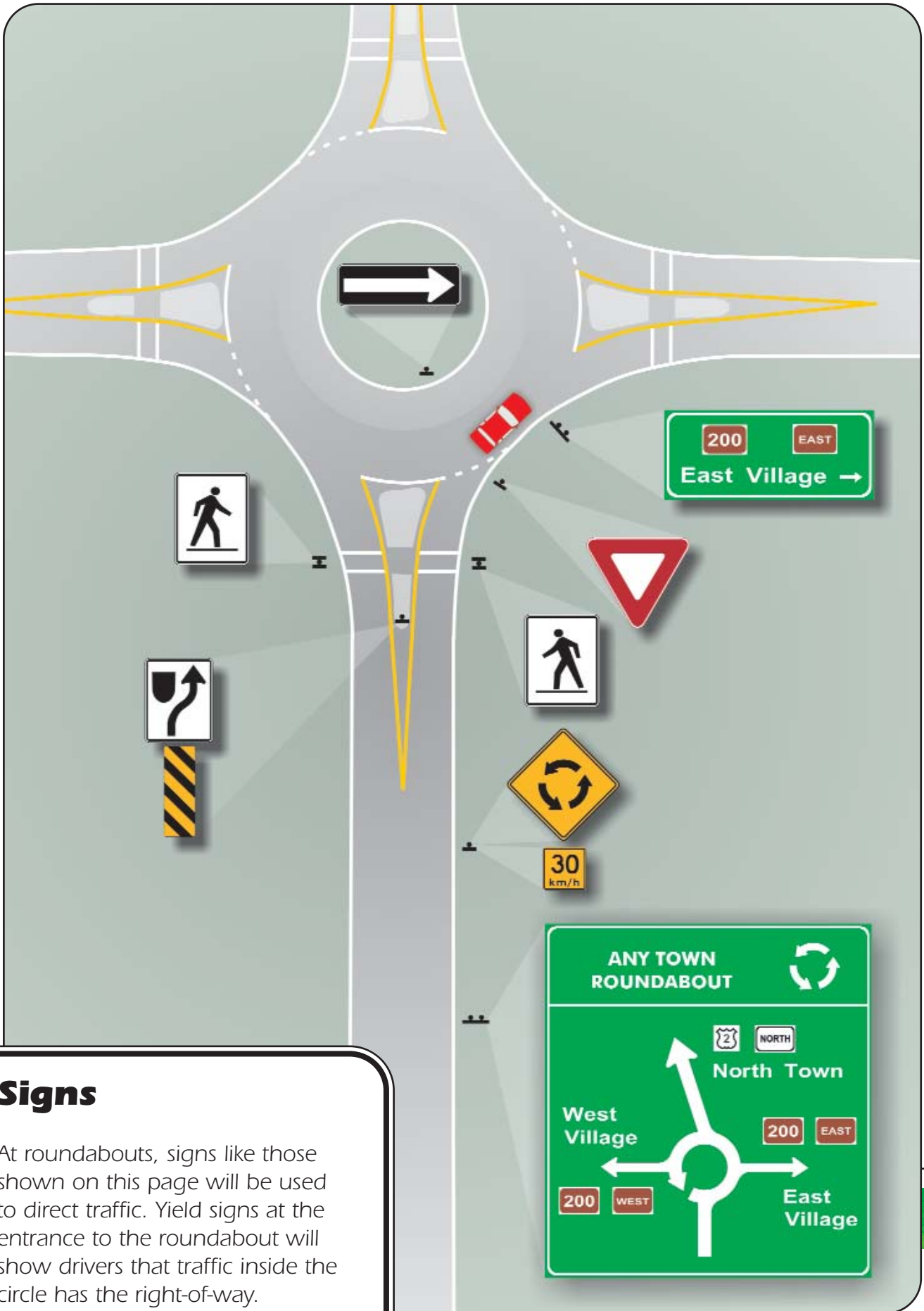


- Vehicle-to-vehicle conflict point
- Vehicle-to-pedestrian conflict point



Intersection





Signs

At roundabouts, signs like those shown on this page will be used to direct traffic. Yield signs at the entrance to the roundabout will show drivers that traffic inside the circle has the right-of-way.

How to Get Around

As drivers approach a roundabout, they slow down and yield to circulating traffic. When a gap in traffic is available on the left, drivers enter the roundabout by turning right and then follow the circle until they reach their exit.

Left Turning Traffic



Right Turning Traffic



Through Traffic





Pedestrians

Roundabouts are designed to be safe for pedestrians. Crosswalks are located about one car length before the yield line. The pedestrian crosses before the driver is focussed on entering the roundabout. Drivers are required to yield at crosswalks, but as with all crosswalks, pedestrians should be cautious. When sidewalks are not provided, pedestrians should walk around a roundabout facing traffic and use the marked crosswalks.

Cyclists

Cyclists can either ride inside a roundabout or dismount and walk the bicycle across the crosswalks. Experienced riders may choose to cycle, but must follow the same rules as vehicles. They must yield at entry to the circle. Since traffic is slower inside the roundabout, cyclists should be able to travel at the same speed as motorists, staying in line with the circulating traffic.

Trucks

Roundabouts can be designed to handle all modern truck configurations.

For more information, contact:
Highway Planning and Design
Transportation and Public Works
1672 Granville Street
Johnston Building
Halifax, Nova Scotia
P.O. Box 186
B3J 2N2
Tel: 902.424.7501



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