

FAQ's: Roundabouts

Heard talk of roundabouts in Campbell River? Learn more about how and why they work, and where they're being planned in the city, with these frequently-asked questions.

GENERAL

1. What is a roundabout?

A roundabout is an intersection where traffic flows in a counter-clockwise direction around a centre island. In a roundabout, traffic flows slowly and continuously, in the same direction, and all exits are right turns. Roundabouts offer increased safety and efficiency for vehicle and pedestrian traffic at busy intersections.

2. Why build roundabouts instead of traditional signalized intersections?

Roundabouts have been selected for these locations as they are expected to have the least impact on traffic flow, while still improving traffic management and safety.

Roundabouts can offer many benefits, including:

- Improving safety for all road users
- Reducing speed, which results in reduced number and severity of crashes
- Reducing traffic noise and vehicle emissions – compared to traditional signalized intersections, vehicles at roundabouts do not stop and accelerate, or idle
- Enhancing appearance of intersection
- Reduced construction and operations/maintenance cost compared to traffic lights

3. Can roundabouts accommodate oversized and emergency vehicles?

Yes. Roundabouts are often installed along main traffic corridors, requiring planning for use by vehicles such as semi-trucks or large recreational vehicles. It is in the City's plan to design the proposed roundabout to accommodate any vehicles that need to use it.

4. How do I use a roundabout?

When approaching a roundabout, slow down and yield to any pedestrians. Wait for a safe gap in traffic before entering the circle (yield on entry) and as you drive, remember that traffic inside the roundabout always has the right-of-way – this means that you do not stop to let other vehicles enter. As you near your exit point, use your right-turn signal to let others know you plan to exit.

5. How do I use my turn signal in a roundabout?

Your turn signal will let drivers behind you know your planned route, and advise those waiting to enter the circle. Here are ICBC's guidelines on turn signal use in roundabouts:

- If turning right: Signal right on your approach to the roundabout, and continuously signal right until the right turn is complete.
- If driving straight through: You don't need to signal when entering the roundabout – but right-hand signal should be used when exiting.
- If turning left: Signal left on approach to the roundabout, and continuously signal left until approaching the exit. Signal right to exit.



6. How should cyclists navigate a roundabout?

To protect cyclists' safety, cycling lanes do not continue through roundabouts, as per engineering design standards.

When approaching the roundabout, cyclists have two options – they can either merge into the traffic lane and proceed in line with vehicles, or they can exit at the offramp where the cycling lane closes, dismount, and proceed via sidewalk and crosswalks to reconnect on the other side. Signage will direct cyclists to the off-roadway route.

7. What if an emergency vehicle enters the roundabout?

In a roundabout, emergency vehicles always have the right-of-way. This means that if you see an emergency vehicle before you enter the roundabout, pull to the right and stop to let the emergency vehicle use the roundabout. If you are in the roundabout, take the nearest exit, then pull to the right and let the emergency vehicle pass you.

ROUNDAOBOUTS IN CAMPBELL RIVER

8. Where are roundabouts being planned in Campbell River?

The City of Campbell River has installed a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of Highway 19A and Rockland Road. It was completed and opened in December 2020 as part of the Phase 3 – Highway 19A Upgrades.

While the entrance to the Maritime Heritage Centre had been discussed as another possible roundabout location, planning at this time is not proceeding and a resolution for this intersection has not been reached.



9. Why did this intersection require a roundabout?

Campbell River is experiencing continued growth, resulting in increased traffic flow along major corridors. At the proposed intersection, improved safety and traffic calming are needed, and a roundabout will offer these improvements for motorists, pedestrians and cyclists.

10. What will go in the centre of the roundabout?

In the fall of 2019, public consultation led to a 'tidal pool' option being selected as the design theme for a centre feature. Detailed design of that piece has not been completed, and construction of the centre design feature is anticipated for 2021.

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For more information about roundabouts, visit www.campbellriver.ca/roundabouts

