

**Video** – Virginia State Trooper Mark Beach

**Audio** – “In recent years, communities throughout the United States have chosen to manage traffic using roundabouts and they’re catching on in Virginia and you will see them more and more. Hello, I’m trooper Beach with the Virginia State Police and I’d like to take this opportunity to introduce a transportation concept that might be new to some it’s called a roundabout”.

**Video** – General footage of roundabout

**Audio** – *Trooper Beach* “Simply stated, modern roundabouts move traffic through an intersection without the aid of traffic signals. Compared to signalized intersections roundabouts have several distinct advantages. For example, roundabouts help decrease vehicle emissions, increase roadway capacity and improve traffic circulation. But the most significant advantage is safety. Roundabouts reduce the amount of serious vehicle crashes because roundabouts reduce the vehicles speed. Although modern roundabouts are not appropriate for all situations, they do provide traffic engineers with another tool to address traffic congestion. So, what are the rules of the road? How do we drive through a modern roundabout? And who has the right-of-way? During the next few minutes we will answer these questions in addition, we will see first hand how roundabouts circulate traffic. But more importantly, you will learn the proper and safe way to negotiate a roundabout.

**Video** – Virginia State Trooper Mark Beach

**Audio** - “Please join me for this important look at roundabouts.”

**Video** - Yield sign with title – “the yield principle”

**Audio** – One of the most important concepts of a roundabout is the “**yield principle**”.

**Video** – slate – **Rules of the Road, Yield** – footage of yield sign at a roundabout. Then footage of a roundabout.

All vehicles must yield to traffic in side the roundabout, as well as vehicles exiting. Drivers should only enter after sufficient space is available to maneuver safely into the roundabout. Defensive driving is appropriate in all situations. Make sure you are aware of other vehicles within the roundabout. And be alert to drivers entering and exiting.

**Video** – slate – **Rules of the Road, Choose your lane**

**Audio** – When approaching a mulit-lane roundabout drivers much choose either the left, or right lane before entering. Thje appropriate lane choice is base on the drivers desired exit or intended destination. For the mulit-lane roundabout shown in this video. The left lane allows left turns, straight ahead movements and U turns only. Allowable right lane maneuvers include immediate right turns or strait ahead movements. In all cases, signs will direct drivers to the proper lane.

**Video: animation showing traffic movement.**

**Audio:** Drivers using the left lane have the following options: Left turns, Straight ahead movements, and U turns.

Remember, when driving in the left lane always maintain your lane position until you exit.

Vehicles using the right lane must make an immediate right turn or a straight ahead movement.

**Video:** roundabout footage

**Audio:** Remember to maintain your lane position until you exit

For a roundabout to function properly, everyone must follow the rules of the road. As you're about to see, failure to observe these rules will create unsafe conditions for you and other drivers. Before entering, always yield to traffic within the roundabout.

Entering without sufficient space will cause an unsafe condition. In this situation the vehicle in the right lane cuts off the vehicle in the left lane intending to exit. Be aware of other vehicles in the lane next to you. They may be unaware of your intended exit.

Never change lanes while inside the roundabout.

This car in the outside lane is attempting an improper u-turn. U turns are only allowed in the left lane.

**Video** – Trucks in a roundabout

**Audio** - Some roundabouts are specifically built with truck aprons to accommodate the turning radius of large trucks and trailers. Although truck aprons are provided drivers should be aware that trucks may straddle both lanes. This why it is important to never drive adjacent to, or pass trucks while maneuvering through a roundabout. If you follow a truck into a roundabout do not attempt to pass.

**Video** – Emergency vehicles in a roundabout

**Audio** - When emergency vehicles approach always give them the right-of-way. If you have not yet entered the roundabout, pull over to the right allowing emergency vehicles to pass. Never stop while inside the roundabout. Instead, continue to your exit then pull over to the right shoulder of the roadway allowing emergency vehicle to maneuver around you.

**Video** – Pedestrians in a roundabout

**Audio** - A roundabout crosswalk functions the same as an unsignalized crosswalk. Before entering the crosswalk pedestrians should always look in the direction of on-coming traffic. Find a gap in traffic and then cross. Although you have the right of way, forcing traffic to stop suddenly can create unsafe conditions for both you and the drivers entering or exiting the roundabout. Most roundabouts include refuge islands providing pedestrians with a safe route across opposing travel lanes.

**Video** – Bicyclists in a roundabout

**Audio** - Bicyclists are encouraged to use crosswalks by walking their bikes. Only experienced bicyclists should ride through the roundabout. If you choose to enter a roundabout, the same rules of the road apply for a bike as an automobile.

**Video** – slate pages with the following points written out

Now let's review the key points. As you approach a modern roundabout remember these basic principles:

**Yield principle** – yielding to all traffic circulating within the roundabout before entering is the single most important rule.

**Lane Choice** – drivers must make the appropriate lane choices based on their destination before driving through the roundabout. After you enter the roundabout, never overtake vehicles or change lanes.

**Slow down** – modern roundabouts are designed for speeds of 20 miles per hour or less. Drivers should be aware of the posted speed limit signs and slow down to safely enter.

**Large trucks and trailers** – Give special considerations to large trucks and trailers. Never pass or drive adjacent to a truck or trailer within a roundabout. Driving behind large trucks is preferred.

**Emergency vehicles** – Do not impede emergency vehicles. Pull over to the right if you are not in the roundabout. Or move through and exit the roundabout to ensure emergency personnel get to their intended destination without undue delay.

**Pedestrians** – Use the modern roundabout's refuge island. This allows pedestrians to cross both directions of traffic safely.

**Bicyclists** – Bicyclists should use the pedestrian crosswalk. Only experienced bicyclists should ride through the roundabout.

Following these rules of the road will help you drive through a modern roundabout correctly and safely

**Video:** Trooper Beach, Virginia State Police

**Audio:** "Thank you for joining me in this informative look at roundabouts. If you want more information about local road projects that include roundabouts contact your local county town or city as well as your local VDOT office. Thank you for your time, please drive safely."

**Video:**

Credits:

Special thanks to Virginia State Police, Washington State Department of Transportation, Virginia Department of Transportation Office of Public Affairs, Virginia Department of Transportation Roundabout Committee.