



Install a Residential Traffic Circle

Comprises a circular raised center island at the intersection of two neighborhood streets and is installed for traffic calming or aesthetic purposes. Unlike a mini-roundabout, a residential traffic circle is typically characterized by (1) a non-traversable center island, (2) no splitter islands on the intersection approaches, and (3) either yield control or no control.



Source: Lee Engineering, LLC
The large, landscaped center island provides a traffic calming effect along this wide and straight residential street.



Source: City of Seattle
This traffic circle is characterized by no control on the approaches and a large tree in the center island.



Source: Lee Engineering, LLC
This traffic circle incorporates signing in its center island.

Targeted Crash Types

- Right-angle

Problems Addressed

- Speeding

Conditions Addressed

- Crash history or observed conflicts related to speeding through the intersection.
- An alternative to all-way stop control.
- Can be a key element of a comprehensive street calming program.

Considerations

- Small intersection curb radii complement this treatment to discourage high-speed right turns.
- Larger vehicles (e.g., school buses, emergency vehicles) may need to make left turns in front of the circle to avoid encroaching upon the island.
- Agencies (or homeowner associations) must maintain the landscaping. Ensure that any landscaping in the middle of the circle does not impede sight distance.
- Provide adequate signing (see MUTCD for details).

Industry Standard

MUTCD
[Sections 2B.43 Roundabout Directional Arrow Signs](#)
[2B.44 Roundabout and Circulation Plaque](#)
[2B.45 Examples of Roundabout Signing](#)
[Chapter 3C. Roundabout Markings](#)
AASHTO Green Book
Section 9.3.4: Roundabouts

Other Resources

[Mini-Circles, PEDSAFE](#)
[Mini-Circles, BIKESAFE](#)
[NCHRP Report 672 – Roundabouts: An Informational Guide](#)

Select Examples

[E. Chaparral Rd. & N. 70th Pl., Scottsdale, AZ](#)
[NE 62nd St. & 29th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA](#)

