Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety in a Roundabout

Pedestrians

Modern roundabouts are designed to be safer for pedestrians than traditional intersections. Vehicles are moving at a slower rate of speed in roundabouts - typically between 15 and 20 miles per hour.

Crosswalks are also set further back from traffic, allowing drivers more time to react to pedestrians before merging into or out of the roundabout. Triangular islands between lanes of traffic give pedestrians a safe place to wait if they choose to cross only one direction of traffic at a time.

Pedestrians should look for approaching traffic, then walk through the crosswalk to the triangular island. Before continuing, they should look for traffic entering or exiting the roundabout. When it is safe, pedestrians can continue through the crosswalk.

Cyclists

Bicyclists can choose to ride through the roundabout with traffic or walk their bicycles through the pedestrian crosswalks -- much like they would in a traditional intersection. Like vehicles, cyclists must obey the rules of the roundabout as they proceed through the intersection. Riders who choose to walk their bicycles may find that some roundabout designs have a ramp onto the sidewalk, which makes it easier for bicyclists to use.