Roundabouts

Improved safety and traffic flow:
Roundabouts are intersection treatments designed to improve safety for pedestrians while allowing for a steady flow of traffic. Each one consists of a raised, circular center island; pavement marking and raised “splitter islands” to slow and direct traffic into a one-way counter-clockwise flow.

There is a "splitter island" at each leg of a roundabout.

Pedestrians should:
- Look to their left for approaching vehicles before crossing the first travel lane.
- Pause at the island to check for vehicles that might be approaching from the right.
- Cross the second lane if all is clear. This is much simpler than at a 4-way stop or signalized intersection where vehicles can be approaching from multiple directions.

Motorists should:
- Turn right to enter the roundabout. Travel around the circle in a counter-clockwise direction.
- Exit the roundabout by turning to the right out of the circle.
- Watch for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Yield to traffic already in the roundabout.
- If an emergency vehicle approaches, immediately exit the roundabout, move your vehicle as far RIGHT as possible, and stop until the emergency vehicle passes.

Benefits of a roundabout:
(as compared to a traditional 4-way signalized intersection)
- 76% reduction in injury or fatality accidents
- 40% reduction in pedestrian-involved accidents
- 35% reduction in all vehicle accidents
- 20-89% reduction in delay
- 75% fewer vehicle conflict points (8 versus 32)
- All traffic moves in the same direction
- Provides a slower and steady flow of traffic through the intersection
- Less idling = less gas wasted, reduced air pollution
- Lower maintenance costs

For more information about roundabouts, visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/safety/roundabouts](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/safety/roundabouts).