

Expanding Roundabouts in the US

A group workshop and roundtable

This is a preliminary draft of collected comments which will be updated as all the comments are reviewed and entered from papers collected from the participations.



ROOM SET UP

- 8 to 10 people at each table
- Don't sit with your friends
- Moderator, Phil Demosthenes
- Scribe, Rick Pain
- Floor Facilitators, Gene Russell, Janet Barlow, Ed Waddell

Session Theme

Expanding Roundabouts in the US:

Timeline 9:30 – 11:15

- Intro & Instructions 10 min 9:30-9:40
- Question 1 9:40 – 10 am
 - 10 min work at your table.
 - 10 min answers recorded by Chair
- Question 2 10 am to 10:20
 - 10 min at table + 10
- Question 3 10:20 to 10:40
 - 10 min at table + 10
- Wrap Up

Expanding Roundabouts in the US

- What are the 2 most important things **YOU** learned at the conference?
- What do **YOU** need?
- What are **YOU** going to do next?

What are the 2 most important things you learned at the conference?

1. Better understanding of pedestrian and ADA issues and solutions
2. Holistic view of roundabout needed to both sell and design
3. Importance of design details to optimal design and operation of roundabouts
4. Few ped injuries and deaths with large number of roundabouts
5. Need for uniformity in signing and striping and lighting
6. Make the case for safety of roundabouts
7. use of internationally recognized roundabout signage
8. how a blind person feels using a roundabout
9. roundabouts is a holistic design—all parts are important
10. Lighting very important as is landscaping and very few states have bought in and more states need to take proactive role in promoting roundabouts
11. lack of willingness to go to uniform software modeling and conflicts
12. use of hi speed in Kansas
13. Success is so critical a peer review is important before opening a roundabout
14. There isn't a national standard so lack of uniformity in all aspects is critical and need US-Canada cooperation in setting these
15. Need of uniformity
16. Design details leads to success of roundabouts – the devil is in the details
17. HO scale vehicles good to simulate roundabout operation
18. Landscaping is an integral part of design
19. Agree with #4
20. Design elements can be incorporated to assist visually impaired,
21. Differences in design philosophy and process in one and two lane and US and internationally
22. How few disbenefits there are to roundabouts

What do you need?

- What is YOUR top challenge?
- What do you need at home to create more roundabouts?
- What are you missing?
 - Design Guidance
 - Documents
 - Public Information tools
 - Education/Training tools

What do YOU need?

1. Policy at state level for roundabouts to be accepted
2. Education –designers need to know where to start as well as how it fits in community
3. Synthesis of models needed
4. Helping influence decision makers—create 2-3 pager of talking points then, hopefully, state will require roundabouts
5. agree with # 4– need a single resource, well indexed
6. More standardization of design guidelines
7. Support #2—for consultants and public sector as well as general public
8. State code are clear about inclusion and use of roundabouts as an intersection
9. Guidance and criteria with three or more lanes is missing
10. Fundamental research of roundabouts, e.g. systems look, Need for mentor or champion in each state
11. Include roundabouts in intersection chapters of state manuals and Green Book
12. provide one definitive roundabout textbook
13. More education, support #2, mentoring program for roundabout designers and university training
14. Drivers manuals include on how to drive roundabouts
15. Need for something prepared on pavement markings on multi-lane roundabouts. Needed before it is officially in MUTCD
16. Education—partnership, IIHS, MADD, and others promoting roundabouts
17. Library of public service announcements
18. National policies and procedures into guidance and policy documents and catch up with
19. Clearinghouse of testimonials, and other marketing materials
20. Good to have higher levels of leadership promoting
21. Assistance with public education
22. More tools to deal with public, elected officials
23. Windows based software for easy modeling

What are YOU going to do next?

1. Wear a traffic safety wrist band
2. Set-up a video course for engineers in company
3. Create local ITE roundabouts activities
4. distribute roundabout statistics
5. Convince Provincial govt.
6. create roundabout conference at state level
7. Promote roundabouts to CALTRANS
8. Upgrade design manuals locally
9. Bring about cultural change in DOTs and in private design community—use roundabouts first, not last
10. Continue to educate ourselves and those around us—be involved in development and continuation of roundabouts
11. Design safe intersections with roundabouts as another tool in our repertoire
12. Start writing roundabout section in manual
13. Explore better data collection for feeding into models
14. Educate others in our agencies
15. Stay on top of latest roundabout research
16. Educate firm and clients about roundabouts and be better advocate
17. Offer more training and educational opportunities
18. Using confidence and knowledge from conference and market roundabouts and facilitate training
19. More research on roundabouts so we can look at data rather than depending on opinions
20. Issue change order to current roundabout design
21. Start working to state MUTCD supplement for roundabout signage
22. Statewide conference
23. Case studies of successful roundabouts with design characteristics
24. Video for selling management
25. Review and resign, restripe as needed for existing roundabouts
26. Learn more about multi-lane roundabouts
27. Re-examine existing projects and see if roundabouts are feasible.
28. Go home and enjoy the Memorial Day Weekend

Any thing else you think of?

1. How you maintain traffic while constructing roundabouts – more information
2. Need to consider safety for 3-4 lane roundabouts, not just operations. Also, need more data and evaluation on multi-lane
3. Not over building/designing for high future capacity. Plan for expandable roundabouts as capacity is needed
4. Coordinating with contractors—they need to be trained. Learn from them on traffic control
5. Confusion of public with circles and roundabouts and get the distinctions out to them
6. FHWA Divisions need to be informed and trained in roundabouts—similar as needs to be done in DOTs
7. Present roundabouts in classes on intersection design
8. Present roundabouts in classes on interchange design
9. Survey of road users, drivers, ped, cycle, truck, where they have experience with roundabouts, specially with multi-lane roundabouts
10. Something like highway capacity committee on roundabouts to make sure this is openly discussed and included in roundabouts—July 05 in Vegas
11. Plan for and consider incident management – specially when designing for special events or incidents
12. Cultural change in design method. Boundaries in design process of roundabouts needs to be “borderless”, e.g. eliminate design process silos. Principles based approach to roundabout design guides
13. Lane drop on exit lane—safety concerns—needs to be in design guides
14. FHWA updating roundabout design guides as soon as \$\$\$ available.
15. Incident management – single lane roundabout—in NM car stays in lane until police arrive. Major catastrophe – no electricity, no traffic signals, roundabouts don't go out in hurricanes—emergency characteristics are a plus
16. FHWA invoke influence for roundabouts. Support using federal dollars for roundabouts and leverage roundabouts by demanding FHWA dollars used for roundabouts
17. Need to be at urban land, insurance, and other transportation organizations should include roundabout sessions
18. Keep considering blind and other peds needs. If you want to work in these areas please network and contact with Janet Barlow and others in ADA area
19. Toolbox for selling public at initial planning stages on roundabouts-how to get public buy-in early in process
20. Encourage with Univ or student group asks for talk include roundabouts and ask if univ has roundabouts in classes
21. Recommend roundabouts in traffic congestion relief venues



Wrap up:
Rick Pain, TRB
Philip Demosthenes, Conference
Chairman
Dr. Gene Russell, Chairman,
TRB Joint Subcommittee on
Roundabouts