



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



QUESTION

WHAT IS THE OVERALL GOAL OF THIS PROJECT?

ANSWER

MnDOT's long-term Toward Zero Deaths program aims to implement solutions to prevent traffic fatalities and serious injuries on Minnesota roadways. High-speed rural intersections, such as this one, have a much higher risk for a serious injury or fatal crash.



QUESTION

WHY WAS THIS INTERSECTION CHOSEN FOR A ROUNDBABOUT?

ANSWER

This intersection experienced two fatal right-angle crashes and four injury right-angle crashes, as well as several other less severe crashes, from September 2013 to August 2018. The fatal and severe injury crash rate of the intersection is over nine times the state average for comparable intersections. Future traffic volumes are expected to increase because of the anticipated traffic growth in the area and the development of the properties south of the intersection, creating an even greater safety concern in the future. Due to high speeds, the volume of left-turning traffic and future adjacent development, MnDOT and independent traffic studies both recommended a roundabout to be the most effective improvement to reduce serious crashes at this intersection.



QUESTION

WILL LARGE TRUCKS AND AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT BE ABLE TO NAVIGATE THE ROUNDBABOUT?

ANSWER

Roundabouts are becoming more common throughout Minnesota at rural intersections, similar to this one, due to their ability to improve safety and slow traffic speeds to reduce the risk of a high-speed crash. These types of intersections are designed to accommodate the appropriate sized vehicle that will need to utilize the intersection. This roundabout will be designed to accommodate semi-trucks, oversized vehicles, such as mobile home movers, and agricultural equipment, such as combines and tractors pulling wagons.



QUESTION

WHY NOT JUST INSTALL A TRAFFIC SIGNAL?

ANSWER

In most cases, traffic signals have been shown to increase the number of crashes at high-speed rural intersections due to inattentive driving, speeding to make a light or not stopping for the traffic signal.

Contact Information

mndot.gov/d6/projects/hwy61-hwy316

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Hwy 61/Hwy 316

ROUNDBABOUT



HOW TO NAVIGATE A ROUNDBABOUT

DRIVERS

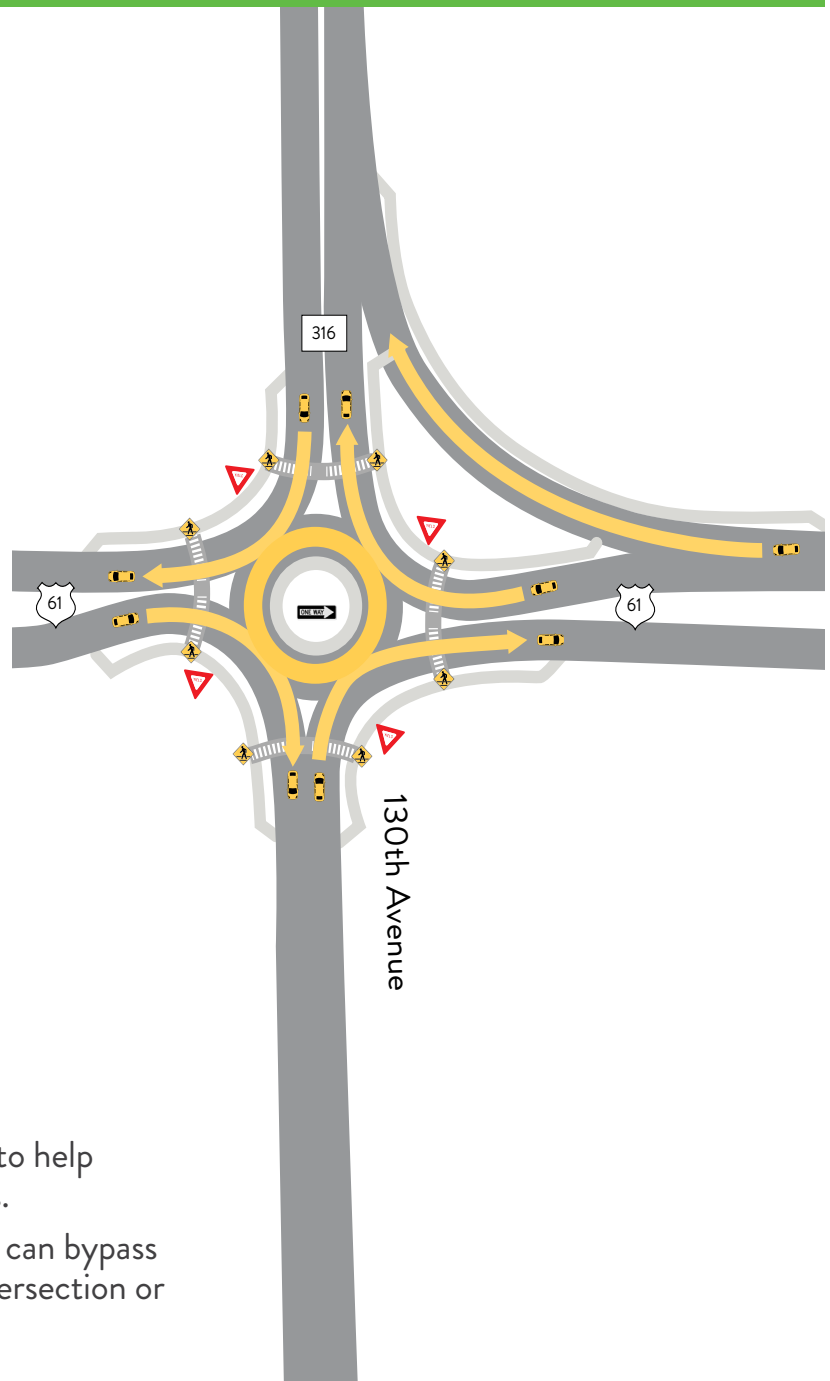
- Slow down when approaching a roundabout.
- Yield to vehicles already in the roundabout and merge into traffic when it is safe.
- Continue through the roundabout until you reach your exit. Do not stop or pass other vehicles in the roundabout.
- The right-turn lane from westbound Hwy 61 to northbound Hwy 316 will continue to be available.

LARGE TRUCKS/EQUIPMENT

- Large trucks will be able to make all turns within the roundabout.
- The intersection is being designed to accommodate large agricultural equipment.
- Extra lane width is being provided to allow for oversized loads.

BICYCLISTS

- MnDOT is making additional improvements to help improve safety and connections for bicyclists.
- Bicyclists following the Mississippi River Trail can bypass the roundabout by using trails around the intersection or flow with traffic to continue on the route.



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