

# Roundabouts and Speed

## Introduction

Roundabouts manage the traffic flow at intersections and better aligns with safe system principles than other forms of intersections<sup>[1]</sup>. The construction of roundabouts has been found to reduce the number of injury accidents between 45-87% in Australia<sup>[2]</sup>.

## Encourage Safe Behaviour

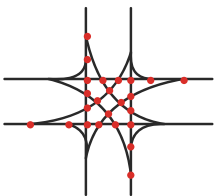
Roundabouts encourage safe behaviour in several ways<sup>[3,4]</sup>:



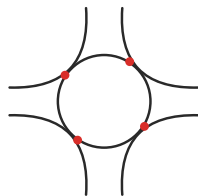
Road users reduce their speed to navigate the circulatory roadway



As a result of a reduced speed, drivers have more time to react and respond to potentially dangerous situations



24 conflict points



4 conflict points

They reduce the number of conflict points compared to four-way intersections

## The Dangers

Despite the proven safety benefits of roundabouts, crashes can and do occur.



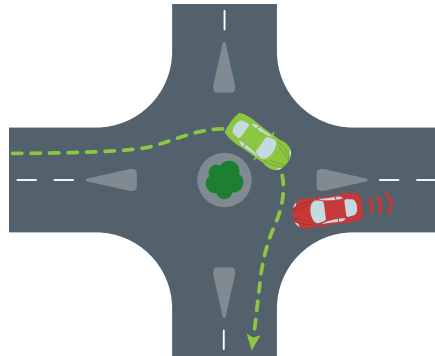
Drivers are required to remain alert and perform several driving tasks in a complex environment with many rules<sup>[5]</sup>.



Research shows that, compared to signalised intersections, driver stress levels more than double when navigating a roundabout<sup>[6]</sup>.

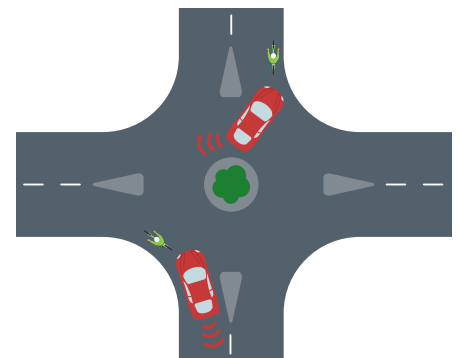
## Speed in Roundabouts

Unsafe speeds are one of the top contributing factors to incidents on roundabouts<sup>[7]</sup>.



Entry collisions have been found to be one of the most frequent type of incident on roundabouts, with a high speed of approach contributing to a substantial portion of these incidents<sup>[4,8,9]</sup>.

High vehicle speed at also poses a significant risk to cyclists, particularly for entry and exit points<sup>[10]</sup>.



## Safety Tips

While engineering solutions can encourage lower speeds<sup>[8,14]</sup>, drivers can take simple steps to ensure they keep themselves and others safe whilst navigating roundabouts<sup>[15,16]</sup>:



Always stay alert to upcoming roundabouts to allow sufficient time to respond.



Reduce your speed in anticipation of the roundabout.



Slow down or stop when approaching a roundabout, ensuring you give way.



Wait at the entry to a roundabout until you can safely merge with the traffic.



Never stop or change lanes in a roundabout.