

Mini Roundabouts



Photo: Austin Taylor (Provo, Utah)

Project Description

A mini roundabout slows traffic by introducing a circle in the middle of the intersection. Pop-up mini roundabouts use signs, pavement markings, and vertical barriers – like flexible bollards – to ensure that vehicles do not drive directly through the mini roundabout’s center.

Locations

Mini roundabouts can only be sited in intersections with enough width to allow trucks to navigate the circle. Roughly 15 feet of clearance needs to be maintained between the intersections’ corners and the roundabout’s center circle. Also, the central island should not be smaller than 16 feet in diameter. Finally, the central island should be defined by vertical elements such as traffic cones or flexible delineator posts that can easily be traversed by large trucks and emergency vehicles, as needed.

Because they change how drivers use the intersection, mini roundabouts are complex projects and will require multiple meetings with the City to clarify design and traffic control details.

Evaluation Topics

- Vehicle speeds through the intersection.
- Rate of driver compliance with the mini roundabout.

Quick Notes

- Mini roundabouts are most useful at low-volume intersections with non-standard geometry (for example, one of the intersecting streets running on a diagonal, or more than two streets intersecting).
- Signs and project design must meet MUTCD standards.