

Safety and Risk in Modern Urban Roundabouts

Studies investigate bike and pedestrian risks and the effects of signing and striping



Research Background

Roundabouts are a fairly recent addition to the road system in the United States, and their relative newness has made them a topic of much discussion and debate. Two studies from researchers at the University of Minnesota aim to shed light on two key issues surrounding roundabouts.

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<p>Roundabouts provide proven benefits to vehicle traffic in terms of safety and efficiency. They create higher vehicle flows in all directions with virtually no impediments and dramatically reduce the incidence of fatal and severe-injury crashes compared to traditional signalized intersections.</p>	<p>Roundabouts have generated a significant number of complaints from pedestrians and bicyclists, suggesting difficulties and safety concerns. In addition, drivers throughout the country continue to misunderstand the rules of the roundabout, resulting in improper use and avoidable collisions.</p>

