



Public Outreach

The public process is a significant element of any public works project, but it is even more critical when a community is planning their first roundabout. The Parametrix team has worked with many communities on the successful completion of their roundabout projects. Many of these roundabouts were part of a larger corridor improvement project that included gateway elements in the hardscape and landscape treatments.


We use a variety of public outreach tools to achieve the project goals. These range from large open houses, where the driving public and commuters can voice an opinion, to smaller focus groups, where impacted property owners can air their concerns. Each of these tools has a place throughout the lifetime of a project.

Our outreach philosophy is simple:

- Reach out to a broad sector
- Provide information and expertise
- Listen compassionately
- Respect divergent opinions
- Look for creative alternatives
- Be accessible




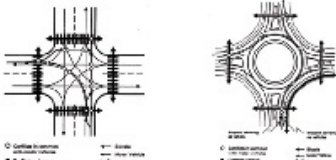
Our approach to roundabout projects includes both education and involvement. We integrate these into the design process at key decision points and project milestones with the purpose of answering some key questions.



Highland/Siskiyou Intersection Improvements

Pedestrian Safety
Experience indicates that roundabouts reduce the risk of pedestrian crashes:

- Proportion of injury and fatality increase with city speeds. Roundabouts slow traffic.
- Pedestrians cross on direction of traffic at 90 degrees to approach leg of the intersection. Drivers have position in roadway. Avoids the problem of drivers looking away from pedestrians when turning to turn right on red.
- Combination of roundabout design and yield priority – as opposed to right angles and stop control – benefits safety as drivers don't feel compelled to "beat the red light".
- Absence of a grid and carved geometry forces driver to pay attention.
- There are a total of 24 possible multiple conflict situations at signalized intersections – and only 5 in a roundabout.

Comparison of Bicycle/Pedestrian Conflict Points 4 Leg Intersection versus Roundabout

How Do Roundabouts Work?

During the concept phase, our outreach effort will focus on *education* – how roundabouts operate, driver education, safety benefits, how bikes and pedestrians navigate through them. Tools we have used to accomplish this include open houses, newsletters, and web-based information that may include “how to” videos.

What Could it Look Like?

During early design phases, our outreach goal will be *involvement* – soliciting feedback on the aesthetic opportunities a roundabout offers. We typically work with a community advisory committee who provides input, and a focal point, for decision making. Issues discussed might include the use of the central island to incorporate gateway features, hardscape treatments (color and texture) of the splitter islands and crosswalks, and planting areas for trees and shrubs. To work through these qualitative decisions, we have employed small group sessions, charrettes, and “options menus” to help the community understand the cost, operation, and maintenance trade-offs associated with different choices.