

Image Credit: Town of Mint Hill

The roundabout at Idlewild Road and NC 51 (Matthews-Mint Hill Road) has two thru lanes on N.C. 51, and one thru lane on Idlewild Road with a right turn lane.

There are a few key things to remember about driving roundabouts:

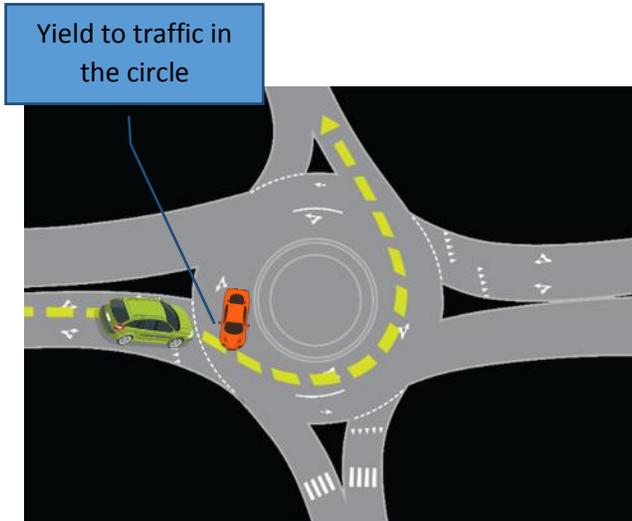
- Yield to drivers in the roundabout.
- Stay in your lane; do not change lanes.
- Do not stop in the roundabout.
- Avoid driving next to large trucks or other oversized vehicles.



General Tips:

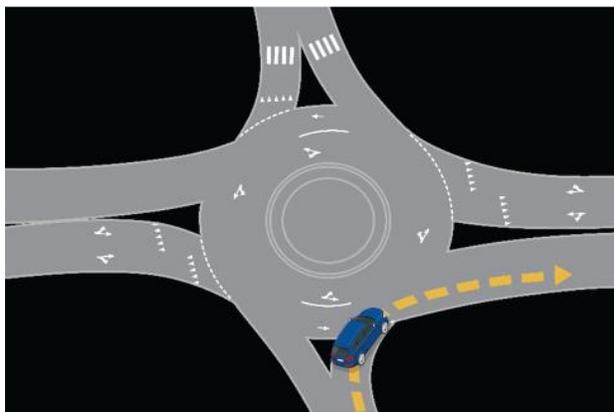
- You will need to choose a lane before entering the roundabout.
- As you approach a roundabout, you will see a yellow "roundabout ahead" sign. Slow down as you approach the roundabout. The normal speed in a roundabout is 15-20mph.
- Watch for pedestrians in the crosswalk.
- Continue toward the roundabout and look to your left as you near the yield sign and dashed yield line at the entrance to the roundabout. You only need to yield to traffic already in the roundabout immediately to your left.

- Once you see a gap in traffic, enter the circle and proceed to your exit. If there is no traffic in the roundabout, you may enter without yielding.
- Look for pedestrians and use your turn signal before you exit, and make sure to stay in your lane as you navigate the roundabout.
- In a multi-lane roundabout, you choose your lane in the same way you would a traditional, multi-lane intersection. To go right, stay in the right lane. To left or make a u-turn, stay in the left lane. To go straight, stay in either lane.



To drive through or make a left turn:

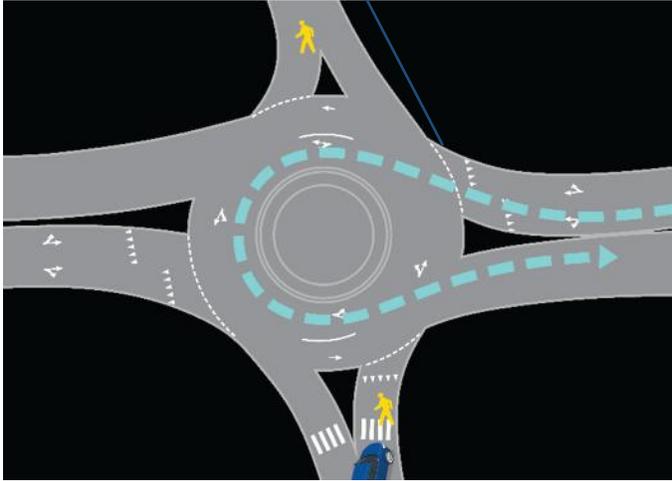
- Approach from the left lane and yield to any traffic immediately to your left in the roundabout circle.
- When you see a break in traffic, enter the roundabout to the right of the center island and keep left, continuing to the appropriate road.



To make a right turn:

- Approach the roundabout from the right most lane and yield to traffic immediately to your left in the roundabout circle. When you see a break in traffic flow, turn right.

Yield to
pedestrians



To make a U-turn:

- Approach the roundabout from the left most lane and yield to traffic immediately to your left in the roundabout circle. When you see a break in traffic, enter the roundabout and stay left.
- Travel around the roundabout and exit.

Other Reminders:

- Trucks and oversized vehicles may need to straddle both lanes or use a truck apron next to the center island – don't try to pass them in the roundabout;
- If you see emergency vehicles approaching, take your desired exit from the roundabout circle and pull over as far to the right as possible.
- Yield to pedestrians when entering and exiting the roundabout – blind and visually impaired pedestrians may not see you, and disabled pedestrians may take longer to go through crosswalks;
- Be alert for bicyclists and motorcycles that are smaller and may be traveling at a different speed than cars;

Benefits of Roundabouts:

- In North Carolina, roundabouts have reduced total crashes by 35% and injury crashes by 76%, according to a 2010 study of 30 locations across the state.
- Motorists have to slow down and yield to traffic before entering a roundabout – usually 15-20 miles an hour. If any crashes do occur, they are minor with fewer injuries because of the lower speeds. One-way travel eliminates possible head-on or T-bone crashes.
- Roundabouts are much more efficient than normal signalized intersections since they are designed for continuous traffic flow. Motorists only need to yield to traffic already in the roundabout before entering.

This video also details roundabout basics, and how to drive in one. To view it, copy and paste the following link to your web browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=35XgSJ-nSdo>