



## Traffic Roundabouts: Increasing Your Level of Comfort

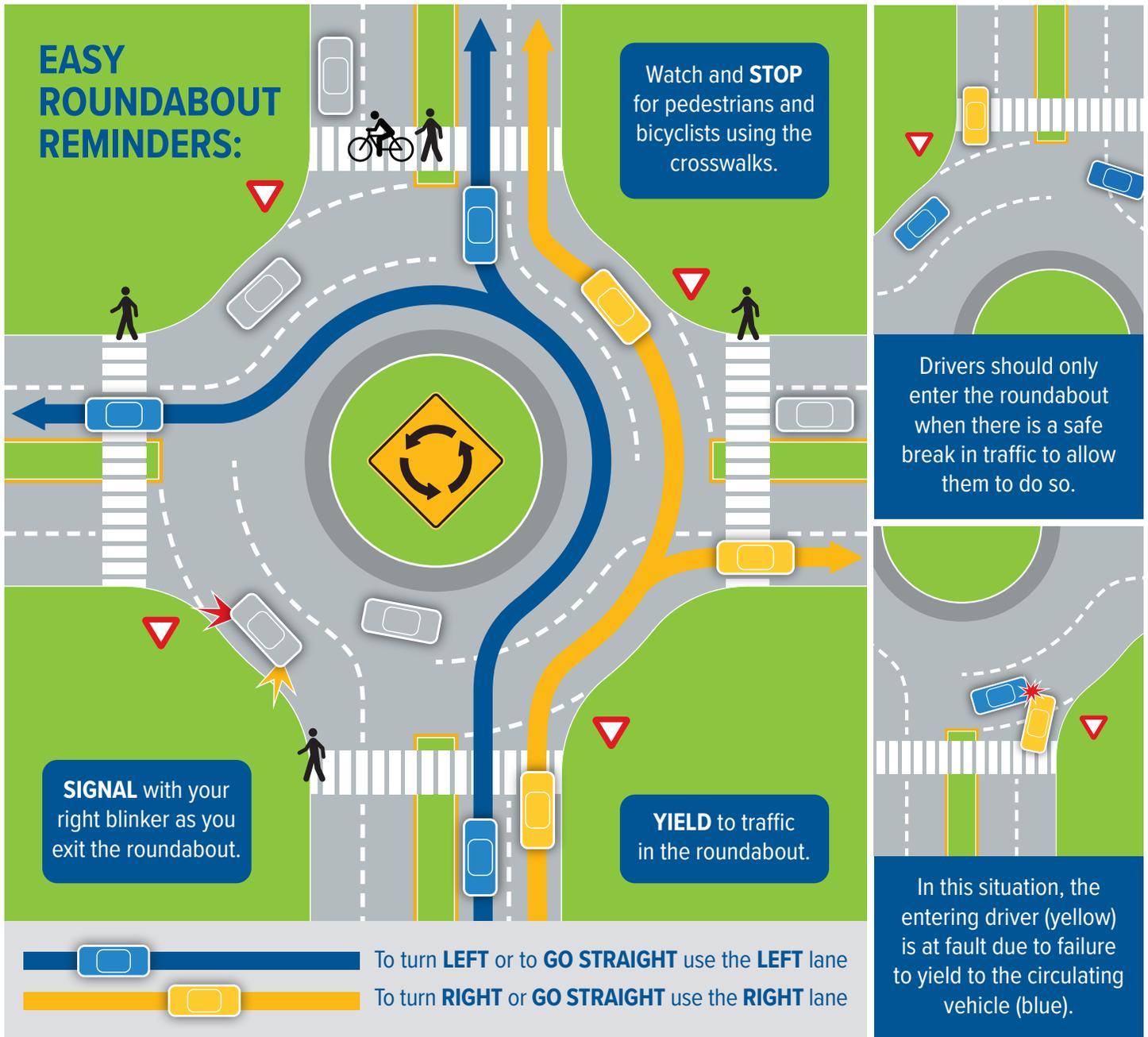


### Three primary reasons roundabouts are becoming more common in Canada:

- 1 Roundabouts help reduce stop - start vehicle emissions and noise.
- 2 Roundabouts result in fewer and shorter traffic flow disruptions.
- 3 Most importantly, roundabouts reduce the frequency of the most violent type of vehicle collisions; severe “head on” and “t-bone” impacts that are associated with traditional intersections crashes.

### Basic Roundabout Strategies

-  **Tip #1:** Know your exiting street name /direction before entering, and look for the signage as you approach the roundabout. This will provide a mental preview of your rotational strategy and reduce stress.
-  **Tip #2:** Enter, look to your left and yield to drivers who are already circling. These drivers have priority.
-  **Tip #3:** Slow your vehicle when entering the roundabout, and even stop if you must. This will allow you to enter only when it's safe to do so. Remember, if there are no stop signs or traffic lights there is no need to stop if you can safely merge into the rotating traffic flow.
-  **Tip #4:** When driving on a two-lane road and approaching a two-lane roundabout, enter into the correct corresponding circling lane. So if approaching in the right lane, enter into the outside circling lane. When approaching in the left lane, enter into the inside circling lane.
-  **Tip #5:** Exit the roundabout in the same manner. Inside circling lane goes directly into the left lane of the exiting road. Outside circling lane goes directly into the right lane of the exiting road.
-  **Tip #6:** You can change lanes while circling, but it's not encouraged. If you must change lanes, remember shoulder checks, side mirror checks, and turn signal use so other drivers are aware of your intentions. Change lanes / direction ONLY when it's safe to do so.
-  **Tip #7:** If you miss an exit when circling or need more time, simply stay inside the roundabout and circle again. There's no need to panic. DON'T stop inside the roundabout unless you're forced to stop by traffic flow or obstruction.
-  **Tip #8:** Avoid overtaking slower vehicles and heavy trucks while circling. This is not the time or place for high speed and aggression.
-  **Tip #9:** Pedestrian safety / cross walks can be awkward around roundabouts, so be extra careful. When entering look for pedestrians or cross walk placement before you look hard left while yielding to circling traffic.



Roundabouts generally have no stop signs or traffic lights. Roundabouts also give “right of way” or priority to the vehicles that are inside and circling. Entering drivers must yield and proceed into the roundabout only when safe to do so.

## SO WHAT IS THE BOTTOM LINE?

Roundabouts really aren’t that complicated. If you know your exit before entering, merge slowly and carefully, use your signals, and simply circle again if you miss the exit, there’s no reason to panic. Stay calm. With a little practice, you’ll be a natural.



The McLennan Group works with OPP Sergeant Bob Paterson (Retired) to develop and promote these practical safety tips. **To learn more, visit [www.tmgssafetytips.ca](http://www.tmgssafetytips.ca)**