

SAFETY CORNER

By Dave Esposito, AKA Cabbie

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Greetings All!

I hope that everyone is enjoying their pumpkin spice lattes with pumpkin doughnuts! It seems. I was just wishing everyone a safe summer! My, how da time doo fly!

Quickly, I'd like to touch on those dreaded roundabouts or traffic circles that seem to be turning up all over like sink holes. They're nothing new, I remember a couple of them in NYC back in the 50s and 60s. One was just put in at the north entrance to my subdivision in Crawfordville at Wakulla-Arran

Road and Songbird. Let me tell you, vehicles of all shapes and sizes drive through it as if there's a deadline to get out. Like many other of these "wonder wheels", there's always blind spots. Some may have houses blocking the view of opposing traffic, others its trees and or shrubbery blocking. You cautiously approach and ZOOM! Some landscaper in an F250 Diesel pulling a trailer full of lawn implements runs through from your left at 35 mph spewing grass and leaves as he exits! You murmur something under your breath and think, "I'm glad I was slowed enough to stop", as you continue. In today's world, everyone is in a hurry and very few are courteous. We, on 2 or 3 wheels, must be that careful and courteous driver. After all, we're very vulnerable!

Here's some information about traffic crashes at roundabouts.

- Roundabouts are safer than intersections. Studies show that roundabouts can reduce the number of collisions by up to 37%, injury collisions by up to 75% , and fatalities by 90%.
- Fewer Conflict Points. Roundabouts have fewer conflict points because vehicles travel in the same direction at a slower speed.
- Right hand turns. Roundabouts only allow traffic to enter or exit through right turns, which can reduce the severity of crashes.
- Florida has many roundabouts. Florida has 1,470 roundabouts (2022) which is more than any other state.
- Some say roundabouts have some disadvantages, such as:
 - drivers may be uncertain about yielding.
 - there may be too many merge points, especially in roundabouts with more than four streets or multiple lanes.
 - drivers may try to "cut" the roundabout. This is driving in a more of a straight path across a multiple lane roundabout.
 - the shoulder lane for bicyclists and pedestrians may be narrow.

The above was taken off the internet and is for a perfect world. I've observed 3 near mishaps this past week alone at my local roundabout. **Be ready for the unexpected!** It is my hope that you'll read and ponder this so next time you find yourself at the threshold of the auto arcade and you'll be extra vigilant.

I won't be talking about this at the meeting on the 12th, we'll have a **special guest speaker** to safety-ize us !

As always, I welcome your questions and comments!

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Safety is of the Lord
Proverbs 21:31