

ROUNDABOUT

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Have you encountered a roundabout while riding on your motorcycle yet? Are you certain of what to do? This month, we will discuss proper procedure when you get into a traffic circle so that you can safely get out of it going in the right direction.

on it again! You can even recreate the scene from “National Lampoon’s European Vacation” if you want. Just remember to say, “Hey look kids, there’s Big Ben, and there’s Parliament... again.”

On two-lane roundabouts, stay in your lane. These can get a little confusing. The first few times I went into one, I just closed my eyes and hit the gas. It worked out. I was in a car. And it was not mine. But the safe way to do it is to choose your lane based on where you plan to exit. If you plan to exit the roundabout more than halfway around, you should be in the left lane. If you plan to exit less than halfway through, use the right

Florida has about 5000 roundabouts throughout the state. There are several right here in the Tallahassee area. A roundabout is a one-way circular intersection that is not controlled by a traffic signal. Because speed is reduced, they are safer than intersections controlled by a traffic signal. And because there is no electricity used for a signal, they are more energy efficient.

Some important things to remember as you approach the circle:

Don’t turn left when you get there!

Yield to all pedestrians in the crosswalk

Watch for bicyclists and allow them to merge into the entry lane

Vehicles that are in the roundabout have the right of way over those attempting to enter

Don’t change lanes if there are two lanes. More on that in a moment

Use your turn signal! Be daring....

On single lane roundabouts, go to the appropriate exit to continue on your way. You should use your turn signal to indicate to traffic entering the circle and traffic behind you that you are exiting. Should you miss your exit, don’t worry, just keep going and you will come up



lane. If your plan is to go straight through, you can use either lane. Do not enter next to a vehicle already in the roundabout as they may be trying to exit. Additionally, don’t change lanes in a roundabout, make your lane change before you enter based on where you plan to exit.

Another point about turn signals, you can turn on your left turn signal to let others know that you are not exiting as you approach the exit. When you do decide to exit, turn on your right signal and make your exit! Once you get the hang of them, they can really be fun on two wheels!

Head and eyes! MARK.