

# CONCEPTS

## Compact Urban Roundabouts



## Offering efficiency and safety to move our communities forward.

Consider the time motorists spend at traditional intersections, tapping the steering wheel, waiting for the signal to change from red to green. From an efficiency and safety perspective, roundabouts offer proven results. Now, FTCH helps communities design a compact roundabout that features a smaller footprint and minimizes impact on surrounding property owners. Compact roundabouts are an increasingly popular alternative because they require minimal land, are simple to use, and are cost-effective solutions to traffic-clogged intersections.

Construction costs are often reduced through these compact roundabouts. Often, the existing pavement may be pulverized, which reclaims and creates a smooth, new base surface for asphalt. Once construction is finished, compact urban roundabouts offer improved long-term operations. The cost of a compact roundabout is significantly less than a traditional roundabout or even installation of traffic signals at an intersection.

Compact roundabouts are unique in their design, too. The roundabout is small enough to be built within public right-of-ways instead of having to purchase more land or infringe on public landowners. The concrete dome in the center, less than half the diameter of traditional roundabouts, can be driven over by large trucks or tractor trailers. Required signage is minimal because the simple design is easily navigated by drivers.

There is safety in the numbers. Each year, roughly 7,500 Americans are killed at intersections and more are injured or disabled. Urban roundabouts carry more traffic than a traditional signalized intersection, but with one quarter of the injuries and one tenth of the fatalities. Pedestrians no longer have to look in four different directions and consider high-speed traffic turning right or left on green, right on red, or even running the red light. With a compact urban roundabout, traffic speeds are generally slower and crosswalks are typically shorter, translating to one quarter as many pedestrian injuries as traditional intersections. Motorists slow down naturally to traverse the roundabout and with the counterclockwise traffic flow rotation, high-speed, head-on crashes are reduced. A key component to reduce incidents is driver education. FTCH's team takes the time to educate the community through a mix of meetings, informational flyers, and press releases.

Can you think of a clogged or potentially unsafe intersection in your community that could benefit from a compact urban roundabout? FTCH's team of proven traffic engineering and design experts will help you evaluate your needs and determine the best option for your community.

Contact [Chris Wall](#), PE, PTP, PTOE for more information on traffic engineering services offered by FTCH.

