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7.0 RULES OF THE ROAD

LITERATURE REVIEW

Roundabouts are relatively new to North American drivers, and any new traffic device requires widespread education. Unfortunately, only a relatively small number of road authorities are in the process of developing provincial or state vehicle codes, local ordinances or regulations for roundabouts. Slowly, driver education guidelines and statutory operating procedures for driving roundabouts are being disseminated.

Some of the methods by which drivers can be educated on roundabout use include:

- Adding roundabout information in driver education manuals.
- Including roundabout general operating principles in driving license tests.
- Using videos that demonstrate how to navigate a roundabout.

Many agencies are seeking a model for rules of the road at roundabouts. The model that has been in existence the longest is the UK model contained in their driver handbook. In the interests of providing Canadian road agencies with assistance in developing their highway codes to include roundabouts, the following is an excerpt from the UK Highway Code (transposed for North American driving):

- When entering a roundabout, give way to any traffic on your immediate left unless road markings indicate otherwise; but keep moving if the way is clear. At some junctions there may be more than one roundabout. At each, apply the normal rules for roundabouts. Keep a special lookout for the give way lines.
- Where there are two lanes at the entrance to a roundabout, unless signs or road markings indicate otherwise:

When turning right:

Approach in the right hand lane; keep to that lane in the roundabout.

When going forward:

Approach in the right hand lane; keep to that lane in the roundabout. If conditions dictate (for example, if the right hand lane is blocked), approach in

the left hand lane; keep to that lane in the roundabout. If the roundabout itself is clear of other traffic, take the most convenient route through the roundabout.

When turning left:

Approach in the left hand lane; keep to that lane in the roundabout.

- When there are more than two lanes at the entrance to a roundabout, unless signs or road markings indicate otherwise, use the clearest, most convenient lane on approach and through the roundabout suitable for the exit you intend to take.
- When in a roundabout, look out for and show consideration to other vehicles crossing in front of you, especially those intending to leave by the next exit.
- Turn signals at roundabouts:

When turning right:

Use the right turn indicator on approach and through the roundabout.

When going forward:

Use the right turn indicator when passing the exit before the one to be taken.

When turning left:

Use the left turn indicator on approach, and maintain this signal until passing the exit before the one to be taken. Then change to the right turn indicator.

- Watch out for cyclists and for long vehicles, which have to take a different course, both on the approach to and in the roundabout.

A second example, in North America, is the Vermont code:

- A roundabout is a circular intersection designed to slow traffic while lowering delays and handling higher traffic volumes. Roundabouts have proved to more safely accommodate vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists than Stop signs or traffic signals. U-turns are also permitted at roundabouts.
- The most common signs you will see when approaching a roundabout are as follows: "Roundabout Ahead" and "Reduced Speed Ahead" signs which inform that you are approaching a roundabout.
- The advisory speed limit sign tells the driver the maximum safe operating speed for

Entry Path Overlap (and Poor Deflection)

