

How to use the McKenzie Towne roundabout



Public guide – spiral roundabout design

The McKenzie Towne roundabout is being updated to a spiral design to make it clearer, calmer and easier to use, especially at exits where confusion has occurred in the past.

In the current design, drivers in the inner (left) lane are required to exit by crossing paths with vehicles travelling in the outer (right) lane. While drivers in the right lane must yield, this interaction is not always clearly understood. This can lead to hesitation and confusion near exits.

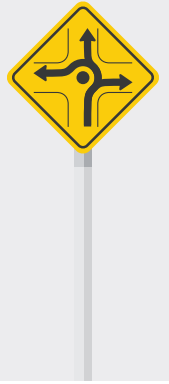
The goal of the new design is not to move traffic faster, but to help people move through the intersection more predictably and safely.

What's different about a spiral roundabout?

Unlike the current two lane layout, a spiral roundabout:

- asks drivers to choose the correct lane before entering
- uses lane markings and dividers to guide vehicles smoothly to their exit

Once you enter, you simply follow your lane — the design removes the need for crossing movements at exits and helps guide you through the roundabout.



Step by step: driving through the spiral roundabout

1. Before you enter: choose the correct lane

- Watch the signs and pavement arrows as you approach.
- Select the lane that matches where you want to exit.
- If you're unsure, slow down — the markings are designed to guide you early.



Tip: Planning your exit before entering is the biggest difference in a spiral roundabout.

2. Yield before entering

- Yield to traffic already in the roundabout.
- Yield to pedestrians at crosswalks before entering.
- Once there's a safe gap, enter smoothly.

3. Inside the roundabout: follow your lane

- Stay in your lane — do not change lanes inside the roundabout.
- Let the spiral markings guide you outward as you travel.
- The design is doing the work for you.

4. Exiting the roundabout

- Follow your lane to the exit.
- Watch and yield for pedestrians at the exit crosswalk.
- Signal as you exit, where appropriate.

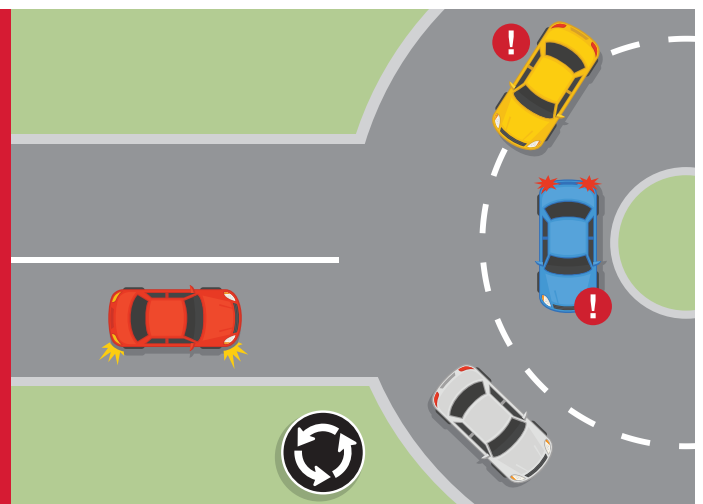
Clear, predictable exits help improve safety for everyone.

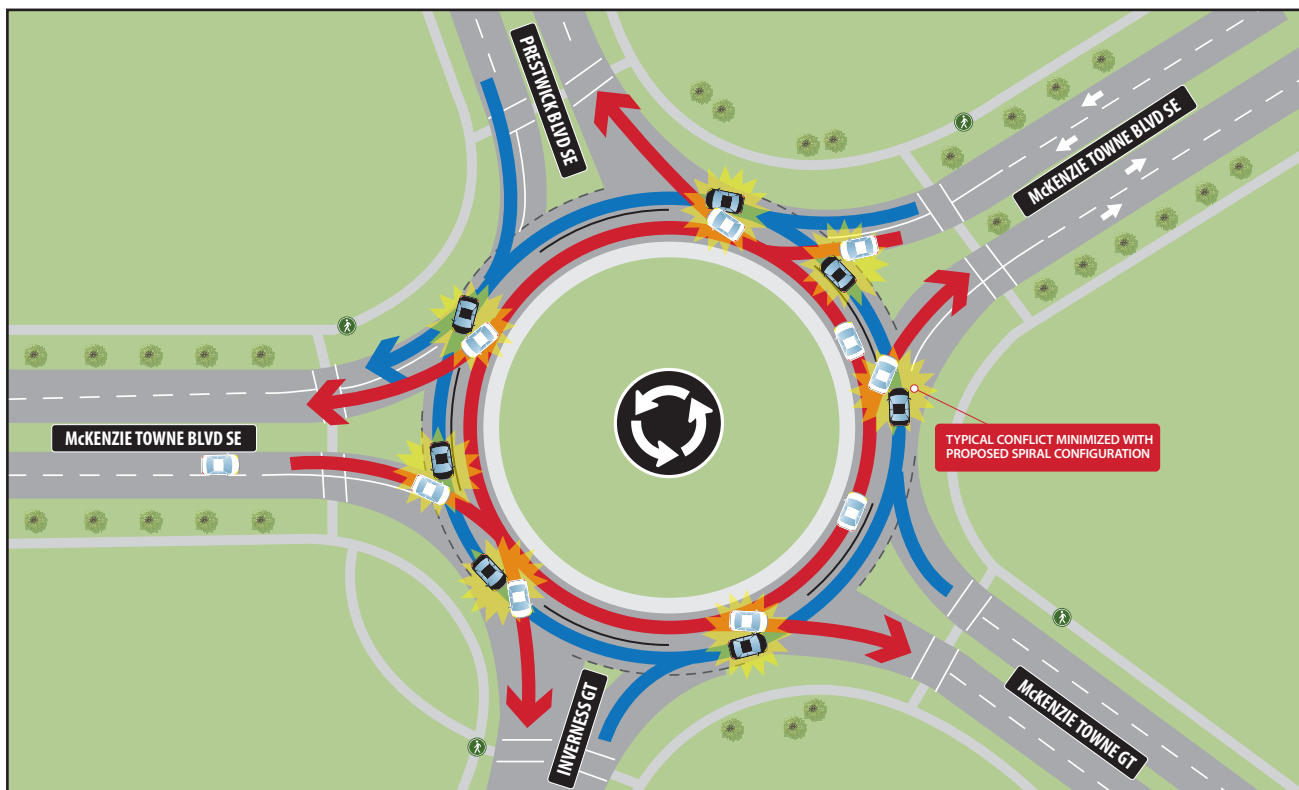


What not to do

- Do not change lanes inside the roundabout.
- Do not stop inside the roundabout.
- Do not rush to make a last second exit.

If you miss your exit, continue around and exit safely on the next loop.

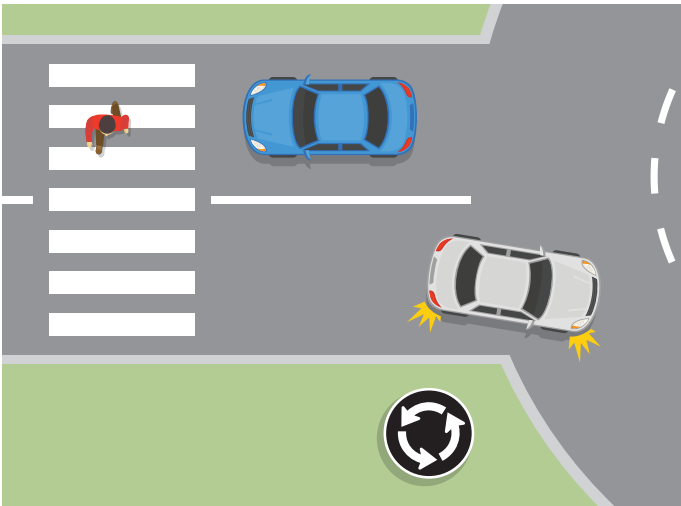




EXISTING CONDITION - CONVENTIONAL 2 LANE CONFIGURATION



PROPOSED CONDITION - SPIRAL CONFIGURATION



What pedestrians should expect

- Vehicles move more predictably, especially at exits.
- Reduced hesitation and confusion help make driver behaviour easier to anticipate.
- Drivers must yield to pedestrians at marked crossings when safe to do so.

Clearer vehicle movements support safer crossings.



What large vehicles and emergency responders should know

The spiral roundabout includes a mountable centre area that allows larger vehicles, buses and emergency responders to navigate the intersection safely when needed, without changing how everyday drivers use the roundabout.

Why this design helps

The spiral layout reduces:

- Confusion near exits.
- Hesitation caused by unclear right of way expectations.
- Unpredictable movements that can affect pedestrian safety.

By guiding drivers earlier and more clearly, the roundabout becomes easier to use for people who drive, walk and move through the area every day.

Learn more

For updates on the McKenzie Towne roundabout project, including timing and construction details, visit [calgary.ca/\[insert\]](https://calgary.ca/[insert]).