

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.

Pedestrian safety and exit clarity are key reasons this location is being reviewed. The proposed design is intended to make vehicle movements more predictable so drivers, pedestrians, transit vehicles and emergency responders can move through the area with greater confidence.

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

Use this guide when the updated signs, pavement markings and lane layout are in place. Until then, continue using the roundabout as it operates today.

Step by step: driving through the spiral roundabout

The biggest difference is this: choose the correct lane before you enter, then stay in that lane until your exit.

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's different about a spiral roundabout?

Unlike the current two-lane layout, a spiral roundabout is designed to:

- Help drivers choose the correct lane before entering.
- Use signs, lane markings and dividers to guide drivers to their exit.
- Reduce the need for drivers to change lanes or cross paths with other vehicles at exits.

Once you enter the roundabout, follow your lane to your exit.

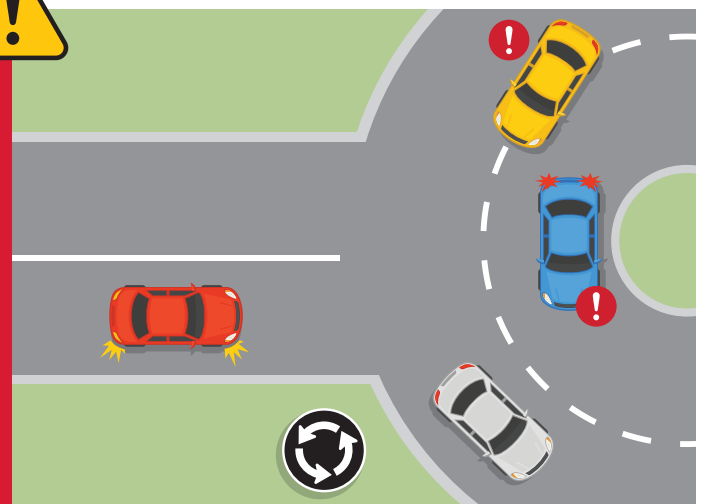
The spiral layout helps make vehicle movements more predictable by guiding drivers earlier and reducing last-minute lane changes near exits.



What not to do

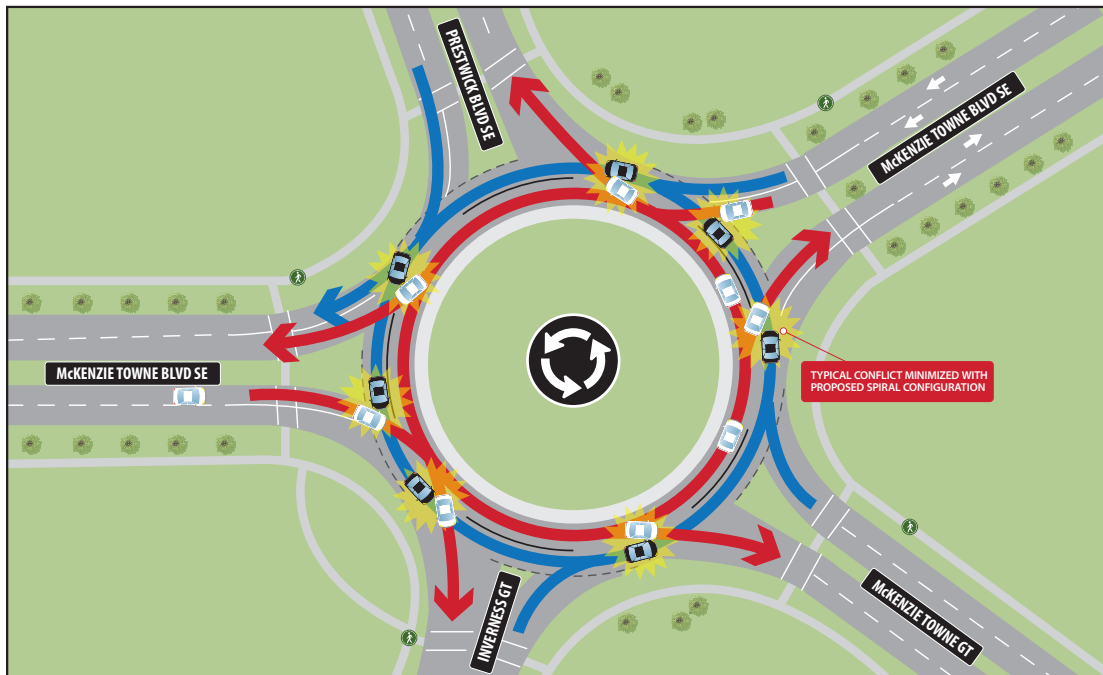
- **Do not** change lanes inside the roundabout.
- **Do not** stop inside the roundabout unless required for safety.
- **Do not** rush to make a last second exit.

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

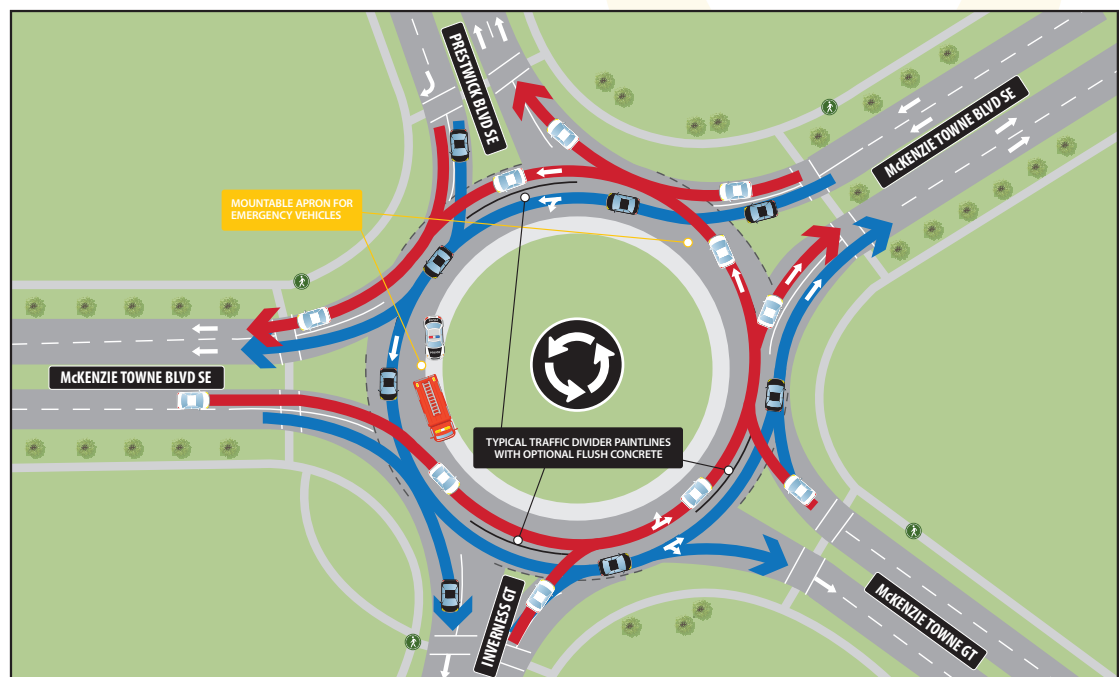


What's changing?

The diagrams below show how the current two-lane layout differs from the proposed spiral configuration and why drivers will be guided earlier, before they enter the roundabout.



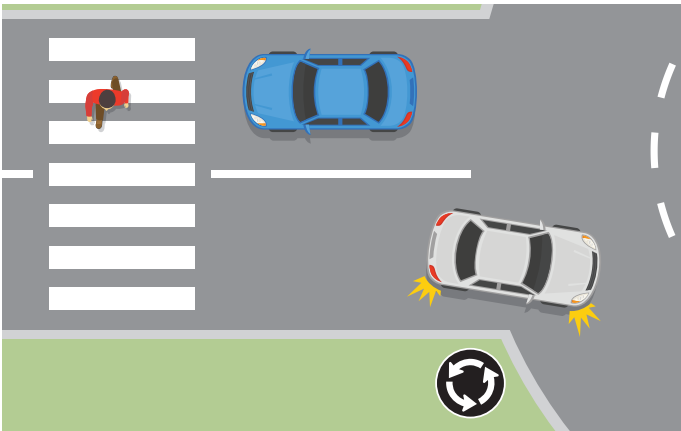
Existing condition – conventional two-lane configuration.



Proposed condition – spiral configuration. Subject to final design approval.

Yield before entering and wait for a safe gap.

Watch for pedestrians at crossings before you enter and as you exit.



What pedestrians should expect

- Vehicles move more predictably, especially at exits.
- The updated design responds to safety considerations at this location by making vehicle movements clearer near crossings and 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.
- People walking should continue to use marked crossings and make sure approaching vehicles have yielded before crossing.
- Clearer, more predictable movements support safer crossings and help the roundabout work better for everyone using the area now and in the future.



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 current layout can be difficult to navigate at exits, especially when drivers are unsure which lane to use or how vehicles should yield to each other.

The spiral layout reduces:

- Confusion about which lane to use before entering.
- Hesitation near exits caused by unclear yielding expectations.
- The need for drivers to cross paths with vehicles in another lane when exiting.
- Unpredictable movements that can affect people walking, driving, cycling or taking transit through the area.

By guiding drivers earlier and more clearly, the design helps make the roundabout easier to understand, more predictable and better suited to how people use the area today and in the future.

Learn more

For updates on the McKenzie Towne roundabout project, including timing and construction details when confirmed, visit calgary.ca/McKenzieRoundabout