

Environmental Benefits of Roundabouts

The Windsor-Essex Parkway features a multi-lane roundabout where the Howard Avenue Diversion (County Road 9) meets Highway 3 and Highway 401 on/off ramps. The roundabout is a unique feature that will benefit travellers and the environment alike.

The Howard Avenue Diversion is located at the east end of the Parkway corridor, and is one of the first permanent features completed for the Windsor-Essex Parkway.

Noise

If you are outside in the area of a roundabout, you will notice that traffic noise generated by vehicles navigating through a roundabout is somewhat quieter than what you would typically experience in areas that have a traffic signal or other type of intersection. This is because vehicles generally move through the roundabout at a slower speed and, in many cases, without having to come to a complete stop.

Fuel Efficiency

Are you an owner or driver of a vehicle with a combustion engine? If so, you can expect to have higher fuel efficiency when travelling through roundabouts as compared to intersections with traffic signals or stop signs. Vehicles with combustion engines generally require more fuel when idling or speeding up from a stopped position as compared to travelling a constant speed. The more a driver keeps a consistent speed through a roundabout, the better the fuel efficiency.

Emissions & Air Quality

Traffic using a roundabout will generally travel at a more constant speed as compared to other types of intersections such as traffic lights or stop signs. This activity in turn results in lower emission levels such as carbon monoxide (CO) and nitrogen oxide (NOx). Emission reductions in turn improve air quality.

Traffic Flow

Roundabouts reduce delays and improve traffic flow. Under normal conditions the roundabout will operate smoothly.

Overall, the Windsor-Essex Parkway will improve air quality throughout the corridor by eliminating stop-and-go conditions caused by the 17 traffic signals that currently exist on Huron Church Road/Highway 3.

Other communities in Windsor, not just those located adjacent to the Windsor-Essex Parkway, will also experience a reduction in noise levels from traffic according to studies completed as part of the approved Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) environmental assessment.

For more information:

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- www.flickr.com/photos/weparkway
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