

The Environmental Benefits of Roundabouts

A modern roundabout is a unique feature of The Windsor-Essex Parkway plan. Located where Highway 3 and Howard Avenue intersect with the new service road, the roundabout will benefit both travellers and the environment.

Noise

If you are outside in the area of a roundabout, you will notice that traffic noise generated by vehicles navigating through a roundabout are 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 higher 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. Based on traffic analysis performed during the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study, it's anticipated the new roundabout will operate smoothly under normal traffic conditions.

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 DRIC environmental assessment.

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