

Following is a statement regarding the urban roundabout at 11th/College in Bozeman.

The intersection of College and 11th is a gateway to Montana State University and the location of Bozeman's first true urban roundabout. Prior to improvement, a four-way stop control was employed that experienced heavy traffic and excessive delays during peak periods. High volumes of pedestrian and bicycle traffic also use the intersection.

Study was initiated to determine the best method of improving the existing peak Level of Service 'F' to an LOS of 'C' or better. Life-cycle benefit/cost analyses revealed a roundabout to be less expensive than a traffic signal despite the larger up-front cost to construct. The decision to go with a roundabout was controversial and wrought with apprehension from a portion of the community. Many people seemed to believe that Bozeman drivers were incapable of learning roundabout etiquette and that the facility was doomed to disaster from the start.

Since opening last August, the roundabout has proven to be a resounding success. Evening peak period delay has been reduced from an average 153 seconds per vehicle to 20 seconds per vehicle for northbound traffic. Accident incidents and severity have both dropped and pedestrian complaints have not occurred. The initial apprehension to the roundabout has been replaced by a general feeling of acceptance within the community.

Sincerely,

Brian Heaston, P.E.

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