



**VISION ZERO**

zero deaths  
zero serious injuries

**Montana Department of Transportation**

PO Box 201001  
Helena, MT 59620-1001

**Memorandum**

To: e-Distribution  
From: Dustin Rouse, P.E., Preconstruction Engineer  
Date: April 27, 2018  
Subject: Roundabout Committee

The purpose of this memo is to establish a Roundabout Committee. The goal of the Roundabout Committee is to provide uniform and consistent design guidance of when fixed objects would be allowed and to provide landscaping recommendations within the center island.

**Fixed objects:**

In general, fixed objects such as large boulders, concrete walls/monuments, statues, trees, etc., are not allowed within the center island; however, there are times when fixed objects could be a consideration within the island when considering the context in which the roundabout is installed.

Below is a table that will be used as a guide for considering fixed objects within the roundabout island.

	Highest Approach Posted Speed	
	Less than or equal to 45 mph	Greater than 45 mph
Freeway Ramp Terminal	Determination by Roundabout Committee	Not allowed
Urban/Urbanized Area	Allowed	Determination by Roundabout Committee
Rural Area	Determination by Roundabout Committee	Not allowed
Transition Areas	Determination by Roundabout Committee	Determination by Roundabout Committee

Definitions to be applied to the above table:

Freeway Ramp Terminal: A freeway ramp terminal is defined as the intersection of the highway that moves traffic from and/or onto the freeway and a non-access controlled highway.

Urban/Urbanized Area: An urban/urbanized area in context of this Roundabout Center Island Guidance is defined as roadways that traverse through an area where the posted speeds are 45 mph and less, frequently have curb and gutter cross sections, and the number of access points will be higher.

Rural Area: A rural area to be applied by this Roundabout Center Island Guidance is defined as roadways that traverse through an area where the operating speeds are greater than 45 mph, no curb and gutter cross sections, and the number of access points will be few.

Transition Areas: Transitions areas to be applied by this Roundabout Center Island Guidance will be those roadways that have a mixture of both roadway characteristics as described in the above urban/urbanized and rural areas.

### **Landscaping of the Center Island:**

Over the past decade, a variety of landscaping schemes have been constructed for the center island. They range from very elaborate landscape designs to minimal or no aesthetics or amenities. The goal is to provide a low maintenance design that will have the benefit of a visual obstruction in the central island as drivers approach and enter the roundabouts. We are also striving to improve aesthetics and to discourage drivers from traversing over the top of the island.

Recommendations for the types of plants and how to keep the plants alive in the island should be provided, or approved if provided by a consultant, by the Environmental Services Bureau. The plants used in the center island will follow the guidance shown in the above table as some plants will become fixed objects at maturity.

The Roundabout Committee will be convened by the Project Manager. All reasonable attempts should be made to convene the Committee prior to the scope of work (SOW) approval so that the Committee's decisions are documented in the milestone report. In cases where the SOW is already approved, the Committee's decision should be included in the next available milestone report.

If part of the decision to include landscaping in the island is based on maintenance being provided by a local or tribal government, a maintenance agreement must be signed by the local or tribal government before design of the landscaping begins.

The Roundabout Committee will consist of the following members:

### Voting Members

- Preconstruction Engineer
- Highways Engineer
- Traffic and Safety Engineer
- District Preconstruction Engineer (or designee)
- Maintenance Operations Manager
- Consultant Design Engineer (only for Consultant projects)

### Non-voting Advisory Members

- Traffic Design Engineer
- Traffic Operations Engineer
- District Maintenance Chief (or designee)
- Environmental Services Bureau Chief

If you have any questions, please contact me at 444-6005 or [drouse@mt.gov](mailto:drouse@mt.gov).

### e-Distribution:

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