
	Department of Transportation	ENGINEERING INSTRUCTION	EI 25-027
Title: ROUNDABOUTS FOR FREEWAY RAMPS TO PREVENT WRONG WAY MOVEMENTS			
SUPERSEDED BY EB 26-015 EFFECTIVE 12/31/26	Approved:  Richard D. Wilder, P.E. Deputy Chief Engineer, Design	12/23/2025 _____ Date	

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION:

- Effective Date: This EI is effective for state and local-let projects submitted for design approval on or after May 1, 2026.
- Superseded/Modified Issuances: This EI modifies Highway Design Manual Chapters 5 – *Basic Design*, 6 – *Interchanges*, and 26 – *Roundabouts*.
- Superseded Shelf Notes/Special Notes: None
- Disposition of Issued Materials: The requirements announced by this EI will be incorporated into HDM Chapters 5 – *Basic Design*, 6 – *Interchanges*, and 26 – *Roundabouts*.

PURPOSE: To issue requirements to reduce wrong-way crashes on New York State freeways. This also applies to parkways with occasional at-grade intersections, per HDM Chapter 2.7.5.1. This does not apply to non-freeways. See HDM Chapter 2.4.1.1 for the functional classification definitions.

TECHNICAL INFORMATION: Where the centerline of an off-ramp terminal is within 150’ of the centerline of an on-ramp terminal on the same side of a roadway, e.g., a “T” intersection, a roundabout shall be the Department’s preferred alternative, by default, when progressing substantial projects. If another alternative is chosen the supporting documentation in the PSR/DDR must clearly explain, with supporting documentation, the rationale that led to the roundabout not being chosen as the preferred alternative.

IMPLEMENTATION: Where the centerline of an off-ramp terminal is within 150’ of the centerline of an on-ramp terminal on the same side of a roadway, a roundabout is to be used at the freeway ramp terminal as part of projects or work permits that are:

- 2R and more complex projects on the freeway mainline or crossroad OR
- Ramp terminal intersection reconstruction (e.g., adding a turn lane) OR
- Ramp terminal change in traffic control (e.g., adding a signal).

Requests for exceptions with supporting documentation should be submitted to the Design Quality Assurance Bureau, Project Development & Policy Section in early preliminary design.

Adding a roundabout will also require Main Office approval since it will change the project type to include a major intersection reconstruction. Additionally, if a multilane roundabout design needs to be utilized to reduce the wrong way maneuver potential it should be submitted to the Office of Design for review during preliminary and final design.

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TRANSMITTED MATERIALS: None.

BACKGROUND: Wrong-way crashes are among the most dangerous and often deadly types of traffic incidents. Incidents involving drivers traveling in the wrong direction on highways or interstates have prompted FHWA and AASHTO to reevaluate interchange ramp terminal designs.

Data from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) highlights that wrong-way crashes, while less frequent than other types of crashes, are significantly more likely to result in serious injury or death. These incidents typically occur at high speeds, leaving little time for other drivers to react.

In 2012, the NTSB issued a Special Investigation Report on Wrong-Way Driving. On page 50 of the report, they recommend "that AASHTO revise A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets as required to address issues of ramp design and pavement channelization in ways that will reduce instances of drivers traveling in the wrong direction as they enter access ramps." Roundabouts have been proven to substantially reduce the potential for serious injury and fatal crashes and are effective at reducing the potential for wrong way crashes where freeway on and off ramps are located adjacent to one another.

CONTACT: Questions on this EI may be addressed to Howard.McCulloch@dot.ny.gov or by telephone at (518) 485-7503.

REFERENCES:

1. NTSB Special Investigation Report on Wrong-Way Driving, 2012: [Wrong-Way Driving Special Investigative Report](#)
2. NCHRP Guide for Roundabouts, 2023: [Guide for Roundabouts | The National Academies Press](#)
3. NCHRP 1050 Wrong-Way Driving Solutions Handbook, 2023. [Wrong-Way Driving Solutions Handbook | The National Academies Press](#)