DESIGN OVERVIEW

N. 51st Street/Boulevard Mini-Roundabouts

City of Milwaukee | DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

AUGUST 2026

About the Project

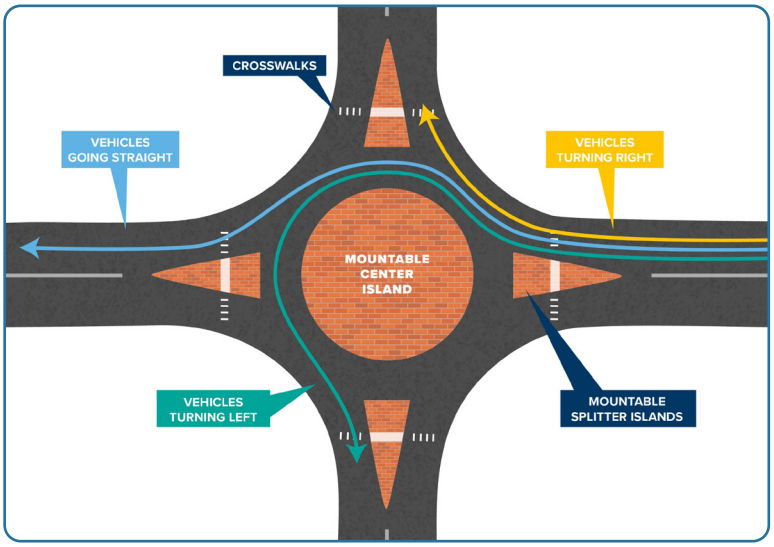
The City of Milwaukee and Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) are planning to install four mini-roundabouts on N. 51st Street / Boulevard at W. Hadley Street, W. Locust Street, W. Chambers Street, and W. Keefe Avenue. The traffic signals or stop signs currently at these intersections would be removed.

Intersection Selection Criteria

- High frequency and severity of crashes
- Many people walk along and cross the corridor due to nearby schools and St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center
- Two of the locations (W. Locust Street at N. 51st Street, N. 51st Boulevard at W. Keefe Avenue) are on the City's pedestrian high injury network

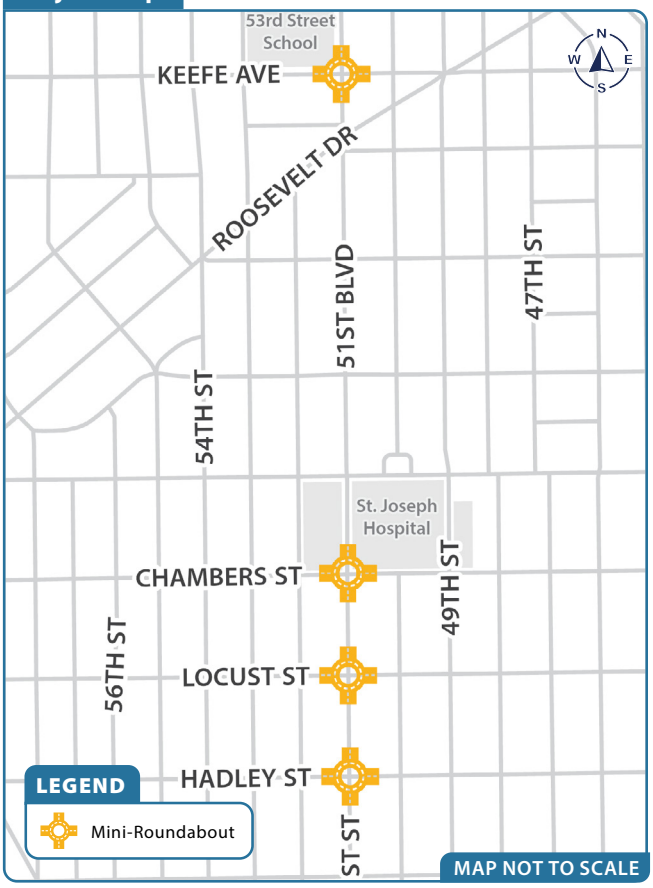
The construction is anticipated to occur in 2028. During construction, each intersection would be closed to vehicular traffic. Temporary accommodations for pedestrians would be provided.

The project is funded through the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) which covers up to 90% of the costs with federal funding and the remainder to be paid by the City of Milwaukee.



Mini-Roundabout Illustration, Credit: Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Project Map



Project Goals

- Reduce crashes at the intersections
- Calm traffic throughout the corridor
- Increase safety for all users, especially people walking and biking

PROJECT CONTACT

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About Mini-Roundabouts

Mini-roundabouts, also known as "small roundabouts" or "urban single-lane roundabouts," are similar to other roundabouts, but smaller in size. A mini-roundabout is a small circular intersection where people driving slow down and travel one direction around a center island.

Like other roundabouts, mini-roundabouts are designed to improve safety and traffic flow. Vehicles travel around a central island, yielding to people walking across the intersection and to traffic already in the circle. Instead of stopping at a signal or stop sign, drivers slow down and yield before entering.

How are they different from a regular roundabout?

Mini-roundabouts are smaller in size and typically fit into the existing intersection with no or minimal intersection widening. Mini-roundabouts also have a low center island that larger vehicles can drive over if needed.

Are mini-roundabouts safe?

Mini-roundabouts typically reduce severe crashes by reducing speeding and minimizing head-on or right-angle conflicts between vehicles.

Based on current research, crashes are anticipated to be reduced by approximately 35% overall, and injury and fatal crashes are anticipated to be reduced even further. Safety is also anticipated to be improved for people walking and biking since mini-roundabouts are anticipated to reduce speeding at the intersections.

Can mini-roundabouts handle the traffic?

Based on the traffic volumes reviewed at these locations, mini-roundabouts are expected to be able to handle traffic at these locations. Traffic would flow more smoothly than at signalized intersections since people driving would not have to wait for a green light. At mini-roundabouts, people driving need to yield to people walking, and yield to vehicles already in the circle.

How are mini-roundabouts maintained in winter, especially with snowplows?

Snowplows can drive over the center island and push snow out of the roundabout area, including the center island.



Example Mini-Roundabout – Vienna, VA

How should I drive through a mini-roundabout in my car, SUV, or van?

1. Slow down
2. Watch for people crossing
3. Yield to traffic already in the circle
4. Go around the center island – Cars, SUVs, or vans **should not** drive over the center island.
5. Exit carefully

How will large vehicles and emergency vehicles navigate the mini-roundabouts?

Larger vehicles such as semi-trucks, delivery trucks, buses, and emergency vehicles will drive over the center island as needed.

How should I walk across the street at mini-roundabouts?

People walking should use the marked crosswalks, which are usually set back from the circle. Before crossing, pause and look for approaching vehicles. Drivers are expected to slow down and yield to people in the crosswalk.

How should people biking navigate the mini-roundabouts?

People biking may ride through the roundabout with traffic if they are comfortable doing so. They may also get off their bike and use the crosswalk.

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Engage.Milwaukee.gov/51st-Mini-Roundabouts

The project team thanks you for your patience and cooperation throughout this project!