

# Do you really want a Roundabout?

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April 2013

Dear fellow Maidencreek Township Residents,

As many of you know, we are faced with the issue of a roundabout that could be detrimental to our area in many ways. There are many things that need to be considered when analyzing whether or not a roundabout makes the most sense for our community:

- It is going to cost \$16 million dollars. In addition to that cost, the citizens of Maidencreek Township are going to be forced to cover the costs of maintaining the scenery in the roundabout.
- The roundabouts will inevitably increase the number of accidents that occur at that intersection.
- Truck traffic will clog the roundabouts, making it next to impossible for people to exit the adjoining neighborhoods.
- There is potentially a more cost effective solution to the problem at the light at Route 73 that has not been discussed or analyzed to this date.
- The roundabout will undoubtedly cause an increase in accidents, at least initially, further adding to the time of the commute of those who frequently utilize Route 222.
- A member of our community is being forced from their home to accommodate an unnecessary traffic pattern.
- The businesses located along Route 222 will be detrimentally affected by both the construction of this project, as well as after, due to decreased access to these businesses.
- There is a traffic light at Route 73 that will essentially offset the effectiveness of a roundabout.
- Pedestrians will be put at more risk, as motorists will no longer be forced to stop.
- There is a fear that motorists driving on Route 222 will not yield to those motorists looking to enter the roundabout from either Tamarack Blvd. or Genesis Drive, especially the heavy truck traffic this area tends to see.

A petition has been created on [change.org](http://www.change.org) (link listed below) that may help provide a strong case against the construction of this roundabout. While the petition itself does a good job providing researched evidence of why this roundabout is not such a good idea, I have also listed additional research for you to access at your leisure.

We highly encourage you to contact the Penn Dot Consultants, State Representatives, and County Commissioners, listed below and give them your opinion on the proposed Roundabout. The more people that contact them the better chance we have to stop the construction of the Roundabout.

We will also be looking to create signs to post along 222 that encourage people to sign the petition and/or speak out about the construction of this roundabout. No role you take will be too small, whether it be simply signing the petition or going door to door to help raise awareness on this issue. Unfortunately, this is a timely manner and we can use all of the help we can get.

<http://www.change.org/petitions/penn-dot-berks-county-commissioners-pa-state-house-representatives-stop-construction-of-the-maidencreek-township-roundabout>

Thank you kindly for your time and consideration in this matter. Please pass this important information on to your friends and family.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Maidencreek Township resident  
Resident of Maidencreek Township since 1988

## **Political Contacts:**

### **PennDot Consultant**

Mike Mastaglio

[c-mmastagl@state.pa.us](mailto:c-mmastagl@state.pa.us)

### **Berks County Commissioners**

Kevin Barnhardt

Christian Leinbach

Mark Scotl

All three can be reached at: [commissioners@countyofberks.com](mailto:commissioners@countyofberks.com)

### **Pennsylvania State Representatives**

Jerry Knowles

David Argal

Both can be reached at: [Lrice@pahousegop.com](mailto:Lrice@pahousegop.com)

### **United States Representatives**

Jim Gerlach

[kori.walter@mail.house.gov](mailto:kori.walter@mail.house.gov)

## **Additional Resources:**

In Malta [New York], the roundabout at Route 9, Route 67 and Dunning Street went from an average of 7.8 crashes a year before the rotary to 45.7 a year afterward. In Bethlehem, the number of accidents at New Scotland Road and Route 140 jumped from an average of 9.6 a year to 38.3.

More from this article can be found using this link:

<http://www.insurancejournal.com/news/east/2011/06/28/204259.htm>

Police have logged more than 100 crashes since the roundabout [in Raleigh] opened in the summer of 2010. Most accidents happened when eastbound drivers on Hillsborough failed to give way to drivers in the roundabout. Many drivers said they were confused by the twin rings.

More from this article can be found using this link:

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/07/25/2218567/crash-prone-roundabout-in-raleigh.html>

“We’re having issues because people don’t know how to use it,” she said. “It’s a European method of vehicle transportation. People in California aren’t really used to roundabouts. It’s a foreign concept to them.

When confused motorists stop inside a roundabout, the situation can become more dangerous, Malone said.

More from this article can be found using this link:

[http://syvnews.com/news/local/lompoc-roundabout-remains-controversial/article\\_2d9ce0a4-d45d-11e1-9a01-0019bb2963f4.html](http://syvnews.com/news/local/lompoc-roundabout-remains-controversial/article_2d9ce0a4-d45d-11e1-9a01-0019bb2963f4.html)

- The project is unnecessary to solve traffic problems during a specific time period (6:30-8:30 a.m. and 4:30-6:30 p.m.).
- Because of the large number of pedestrians who go through the area, having a traffic signal is much safer than constant traffic flow.
- Many drivers don't know how to use roundabouts and don't use them properly.
- Large vehicles will have to use the roundabout such as semi -trucks and buses.

Emergency trucks and snowplows will also have to negotiate the roundabout.

One area of the website addresses pedestrian safety, citing research from the Federal Highway Administration, stating, "A pedestrian has an 85 percent chance of being killed by a vehicle traveling at 45 mph. That drops to 15 percent when the vehicle is traveling at 20 mph."

That is *if* cars slow to the recommended speed limit.

More from this article can be found using this link:

<http://twinsburg.patch.com/articles/residents-start-anti-roundabout-petition-council-member-starts-website>

We're told roundabouts are safer but are they really? In their latest roundabout safety report, regional traffic planners examined collisions in 2010 and compared roundabouts to traffic signals on our busiest streets.

Bottom line: They found you are almost three times more likely to collide at a roundabout than at a traffic signal. But you are three times more likely to be hurt or killed at a traffic light than at a roundabout.

This finding points to a draw. Collisions are more hurtful at traffic signals but more common at roundabouts. Put the statistics together and they suggest the number of people actually injured is roughly the same at traffic signals and roundabouts.

More from this article can be found using this link:

<http://www.therecord.com/opinion/columns/article/665922--roundabouts-versus-traffic-lights-a-draw>

The region's biggest, busiest and most controversial roundabout opened last August to dozens of fender-benders and a high school student hit by a bus in a crosswalk.

More from this article can be found using this link:

<http://www.therecord.com/news/local/article/663229--ditch-third-lane-roundabout-consultant-says>

City experts explained that it is generally not ideal to have a signalized intersection (aka a traffic light) in the middle of a roundabout corridor since it reduces the potential for continuous flow of traffic. As such, traffic must come to a stop at the signal, which offsets the benefits of a roundabout.

More from this article can be found using this link:

<http://www.oreansstar.ca/News/Local/2012-01-26/article-2876514/Residents-win-on-roundabouts/1>

In Kitchener, before the roundabout was installed, there were 17 accidents at the intersection per year. After the roundabout was installed, there were 15 accidents per month. This number has since dropped to 5 accidents per month (60 per year), however, this is still significantly more than there were previously.

More from this article can be found using this link:

<http://kitchener.ctvnews.ca/crashes-at-problematic-kitchener-roundabout-drop-1.742610>