

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

*Charles P. O'Leary, Commissioner*

**For Immediate Release**

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**FIRST STATE BUILT ROUNDABOUTS TO OPEN  
IN MEREDITH AND PLYMOUTH**  
***BENEFITS INCLUDE IMPROVED SAFETY AND INCREASED TRAFFIC CAPACITY***

The first roundabouts built by the State of New Hampshire are set to open in Meredith and Plymouth. Current plans are to open the new roundabout in Meredith at the intersection of US Route 3 and NH Route 106 (Parade Road) on Friday, June 8. The new roundabout in Plymouth at the intersection of US 3 and NH 175A is expected to open by Friday, June 15.

Roundabouts are becoming increasingly popular in the United States and have been widely used in Europe. Much smaller than a conventional traffic circle, roundabouts utilize slower speeds to improve traffic flow by 30 to 50 percent while reducing the risk of crash-related injuries by 76 percent. Roundabouts have just eight "conflict points" for potential collisions with pedestrians or other vehicles, whereas a conventional four-way intersection has 32 conflict points. Other benefits include: a better and longer level of service at intersections, reduced pollution and fuel use, money savings on traffic signals and electricity, and allowing for U-Turns.

NHDOT Municipal Highways Engineer Nancy Mayville emphasizes the state is working closely with communities and responding to their interests when considering whether to build a roundabout. Additional state built roundabouts are under construction in Keene (NH 101) and Rye (NH 1A). Municipally built roundabouts are currently in operation in Nashua, Hanover, Keene and Goffstown.

Drivers approaching a roundabout need to keep four actions in mind: yield to pedestrians; yield to traffic in the roundabout; choose a gap; and enter the roundabout.

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