

roadnotes

Route 9 and Briarcliff Interchange project news from the Missouri Department of Transportation

June 2009

Improvements for Route 9 and Briarcliff Parkway

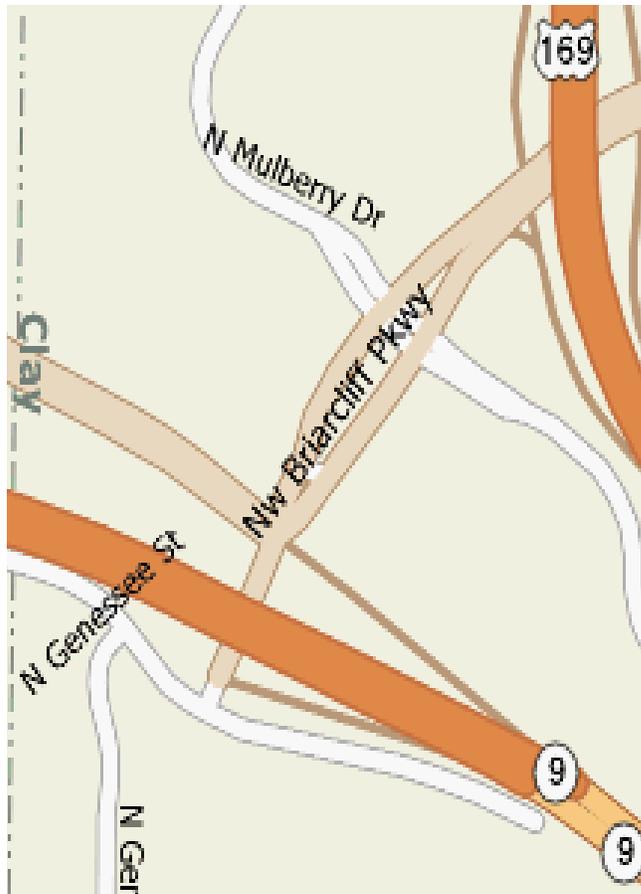
A Safer Interchange

By the end of the year, motorists in the Route 9 and Briarcliff area will begin seeing some safety enhancements and roadwork to improve this interchange. Additional ramps and the use of roundabouts will create an enjoyable drive for those traveling through the area. Work is expected to continue through 2010.

MoDOT, in conjunction with the Briarcliff Development Company, will construct exit and entrance ramps from Route 9 to access Briarcliff. In addition, crews will construct two, dual lane, 5-legged roundabouts at both sets of ramps to ease congestion and improve traffic flow.

Cost

Thanks to funds provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocated to KCMO via the Mid American Regional Council, and a cost share between MoDOT and the



Briarcliff Parkway and Highway 9 TDD (Transportation Development District), the safety enhancements will be underway soon, with a notice to proceed due in December.

MoDOT will contribute \$3.5 million with Briarcliff contributing matching funds of \$3.5 Million and \$2.5 million from ARRA funds to reach the goal for construction at just under \$9.5 million.

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Intersection Improvements to Briarcliff

Roundabouts are Safer

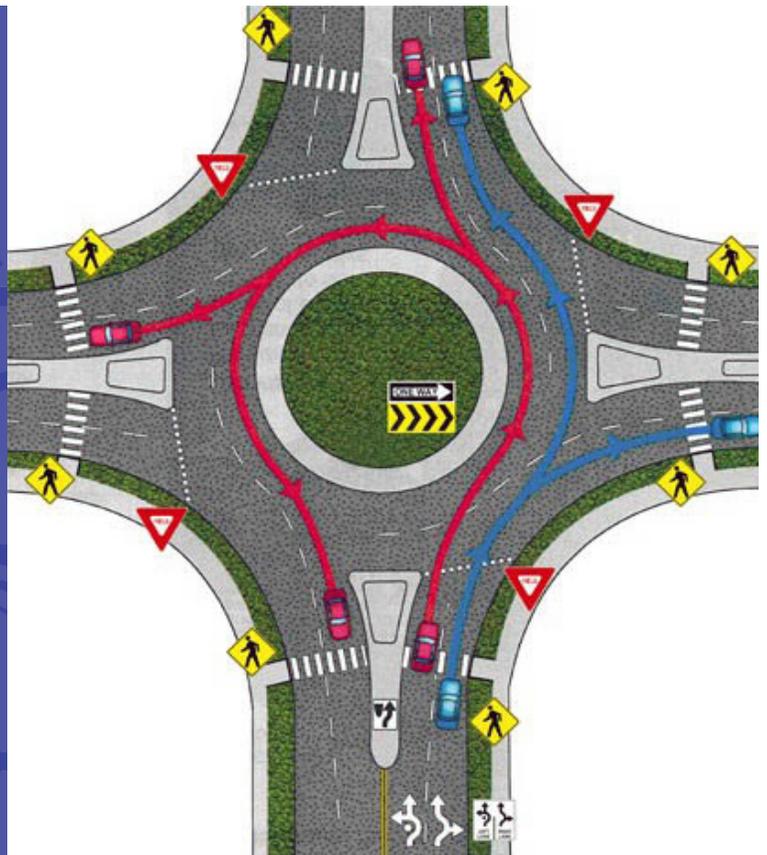
What is a roundabout? It is a one-way circular intersection that channels traffic around a central island without traffic signals. Driving in a circle might seem pointless, but is a good thing when it means reaching a destination quicker and safer than before. A roundabout is a safer alternative to a signalized intersection by providing fewer conflict points. Some signalized intersections have 20 spots where vehicles could collide, but adding a roundabout reduces this number to 8. Fewer conflicts, with slower speeds and calmer traffic can result into as much as 75 percent fewer crashes.

Roundabouts are faster and more economical. Roundabouts allow traffic to yield at an intersection rather than stop. They can handle larger traffic volumes, and reduce driver delay, eliminating complete stops, which saves time and fuel. Less fuel results in reducing pollution and money spent on gasoline. They also help to eliminate the need for signals, saving approximately \$5000 per year in maintenance and electricity.

How do I drive a roundabout? Drivers slow as they approach the roundabout, yielding to traffic already circulating, keeping vehicles from clogging the circle. When a gap in traffic appears on the left, drivers enter the roundabout by turning right and following the

circle until reaching their exits. Splitter islands and lane stripes help keep traffic moving in the right direction.

How do you drive in a two-lane roundabout?



Still Have Questions?

For more information on this project, call Transportation Project Manager Randy Johnson 622-0483, Community Relations Specialist Kerri Lewis at 622-6328, or Richie Benninghoven with the Briarcliff Development Company at 816-741-8540. For more information on other MoDOT projects, go to www.modot.org/kansascity or call 1-888-275-6636.