



2018 New York State YMCA
Youth And Government

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Committee Assignment: Assembly Freedom 5

Bill #: AF-17

1 **Sponsors:** Daniel Marinaccio, Sasha Marshall, Gabriela Abreu, Sam Brown

2

3 **An Act To:** Amend TRA § 140-d. to implement a roundabout where there is an
4 intersection surpassing 45 accidents per year and is approved by a team of
5 engineers.

6

7 ***The People of the State of New York, represented in the Senate and***
8 ***Assembly do enact as follows:***

9

10 **Purpose**

11 The purpose of our bill is to transition dangerous intersections into a roundabout to
12 stop further preventable motor vehicle accidents from occurring on the road.

13

14 **Summary of Provisions**

15 **Section 1: Definitions**

16 **Roundabout-** A circular intersection where drivers travel counterclockwise around a
17 center island.

18 **Circulatory Roadway-** The roadway within a circular intersection on which traffic
19 travels in a counterclockwise direction around an island in the center of the circular
20 intersection.

21 **Intersection-** Any place where two or more than two roads intersect or meet each
22 other at grade

23 **Motor Vehicle Accident-** The unintended collision of one motor vehicle with another,
24 a stationary object, or person, resulting in injuries, death and/or loss of property.

25 **Yield-** Yield means let other road users go first. A yield sign assigns the right-of-way
26 to traffic in certain intersections. If you see a yield sign ahead, be prepared to let
27 other drivers crossing your road take the right-of-way.

28 **Major Street-** Typically the intersecting street with greater traffic volume, larger
29 cross section, and higher functional class.

30 **Minor Street-** Typically the intersecting street with less traffic volume, smaller cross
31 section, and lower function class.

32 **Section 2: Provisions**

33 TRA § 140-d. Roundabout. A circular intersection which is characterized by a
34 circulatory roadway with counterclockwise movement, channelized approaches,
35 low speeds, and yield control of entering traffic. A roundabout encompasses the
36 area bounded by the outermost curb line or, if there is no curb, the edge of the
37 pavement, and includes crosswalks on any entering or exiting roadway. A
38 roundabout shall be installed at any intersection where more than forty-five motor
39 vehicle accidents occur over any twelve month period.



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40 **Justification**

41 Transforming a hazardous outdated intersection into a roundabout is ethically,
42 morally, and fiscally the most outstanding solution perceivable. For every
43 intersection evolved into a roundabout would save the state and county money,
44 prevent human causality/ injury, and contribute to the economy. In accordance
45 with the annual reports performed by the Federal Highway Administration forty
46 percent of the two point five million car accidents nationally occur at intersections,
47 roundabouts would reduce this by thirty seven percent, as stated by the Insurance
48 Institute of Highway Administration. Roundabouts also reduce the probability of
49 fatal accidents by ninety percent, seventy percent in cases of serious injury, and a
50 forty percent reduction in pedestrian collision. This is a result of the roundabouts
51 ingenious design relying on its one way travel that reduces the average speed to
52 fifteen to twenty mph, and removes the need to "beat" a red light. Additionally,
53 roundabouts reduce traffic delays by twenty according to a study performed by
54 Kansas University. Roundabout transitions also eliminate potential lawsuits from
55 being filed against the state/county for negligently condoning dangerous
56 intersections, once again saving the taxpayers money. Also economically, an
57 infrastructure project, such as the building of various roundabouts provides jobs
58 that stimulating the local economy. Roundabout have also been found to promote a
59 healthy business environment due to their aesthetic appeal and innate ability to
60 ease pedestrian and motor vehicle traffic, as described in a study done by the town
61 of Arinello, Colorado. With the passing of this law the state of New York would save
62 money, lives, and taxpayers a whole lot of grief.

63

64 **Fiscal Implications**

65 Once forty-five accidents have occurred at any given intersection the cost of the
66 annual accidents negates the funds required for a roundabout transition. Estimated
67 costs of converting an intersection to a roundabout are one million three hundred
68 and fifty thousand dollars. The immediate funds required will derive from the
69 existing budget of ten point eight billion dollars allocated to The New York State
70 Department Of Transportation. The engineers required to assess whether or not a
71 roundabout is a viable solution to any given intersection exceeding forty five
72 accidents annually will come at no additional cost, as the duty can be fulfilled by
73 existing engineers within The New York State Department of Transportation. The
74 Commonwealth of New York will be saving one hundred twenty thousand dollars
75 annually from each roundabout transition.

76

77 **Effective Date**

78 This bill will go into effect the year after passage.