

Rolla Transportation Development District

FAQs – Relocated University Drive with Roundabout

September 15, 2020

- 1. Question: Why was a roundabout selected over a stoplight intersection?**
Answer: After much research, it was determined that the roundabout intersection would be safer and more efficient at all times of the day not only to drivers but also the pedestrians and cyclists. The roundabout will help slow down and calm traffic.
- 2. Question: Where will the pedestrians cross the street?**
Answer: There will be a number of safety protocols to help pedestrian's safety cross the street. There will be pedestrian crossings on all four sides of the roundabout that will include pedestrian crossing beacon signs to clearly warn drivers to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalk. In addition to the crossings at the roundabout, there will be additional crosswalks on University Drive at Spring Avenue and realigned 13th street that will serve as the new connection to Phelps Health. We have been working with FHWA's resource center to make sure the roundabout is as safe as possible and using national best practices in this high pedestrian environment.
- 3. Question: What safety components will be added to the roundabout?**
Answer: In addition to multiple crosswalks on University Drive and at the roundabout, pedestrian beacon lights will be used at all crosswalks to warn drivers to stop for pedestrians. Offset crosswalks are used at the roundabout exits to US 63 to allow the drivers more reaction time to the pedestrian crossings.
- 4. Question: When will construction start?**
Answer: Construction is anticipated to start in the Spring of 2021
- 5. Question: When will the new University Drive and roundabout be open to traffic?**
Answer: The tentative date for the new University Drive and roundabout to be open to traffic is Spring of 2022.
- 6. Question: What will happen to old University Drive?**
Answer: That is yet to be determined but we are reviewing different options.
- 7. Question: Is there an impact to any of the area properties? What about Taco Bell?**
Answer: Unfortunately, there will be impacts to a couple of properties and the City has had conversations with those property owners and business managers. Taco Bell will remain where it is, however, the access will change to Taco Bell, as well as a few other properties on Bishop Ave. Two properties that have to be acquired as a result of the roundabout are the Huddle House and Hardees on the west side of US 63/Bishop.

8. Question: Roundabouts are confusing, how do they work?

Answer: The key is be in the proper lane prior to entering the roundabout slow down, yield to pedestrians and drivers in the roundabout. Once you have entered the roundabout follow the striping and do not change lanes. As we approach the completion of construction, the City and University will provide instructional materials of how to use the roundabout. However, overall, a roundabout will provide less motorist delay than a traffic signal at this intersection.

9. Question: Do bicycles use the roundabout the same as a car?

Answer: People on bicycles can choose to ride through the roundabout with traffic or walk their bicycles through the pedestrian crosswalks – similar to traditional intersections. Like people driving, riders must obey the rules of the roundabout as they proceed through the intersection.

10. Question: There is a lot of truck traffic on Bishop – how will it be impacted?

Answer: With the Highway 72 improvement, through truck traffic has been reduced on US 63/Bishop and relocated to Highway 72. We would expect other through trucks to be relocated to I-44 and Highway 72 with the roundabout. Local trucks will drive through the roundabout similar to cars.

11. Question: What is the cost of the relocated University Drive and roundabout?

Answer: The relocated University Drive and roundabout's construction cost is anticipated to cost approximately \$3M. These costs are being provided through the Rolla TDD program and the University.