



## Roundabout Committee

Date: August 14, 2020

Location: Online Meeting (Host: Texas A&M Transportation Institute)

### Meeting Minutes

1) Call to Order

2) Welcome and Introductions

*Number of meeting attendees: 26*

*Jason Vaughn extended the Roundabout Committee's appreciation to Gary Schatz for serving as the Liaison Committee Chairperson. Gary is one of the committee's founding members from the original meeting held at the TexITE San Antonio conference in September 2016. Gary also served as the ITE Roundabout Committee chairperson and will continue to stay active with both roundabout committees.*

3) TRB Roundabout and Other Intersection Control and Design Strategy Committee updates (Wade Odell)

*Wade provided updates from the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting for this Transportation Research Board (TRB) committee. The TRB recently reduced the number of research committees. The Committee on Roundabouts was combined with other traffic engineering committees to form the Roundabout and Other Intersection Control and Design Strategy Committee (Code AKD80). The TRB has also developed a Snap Search tool for quick references of published TRB research.*

*Wade mentioned that the International Conference on Roundabouts has been postponed to May 2022. He also mentioned that TRB will hold a virtual meeting in January 2021 for its 100<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. The TRB Committee meetings will be held between January 5-15, 2021. The meeting's technical sessions will begin on January 21, 2021, the exhibits will begin on January 25, and both will continue through January 29. Last, the National Roundabout Week will be held between September 21-25, 2020 (but not advertised as past years).*

4) Roundabout ROW Legislation (Jay Von Ahsen)

*Jay discussed legislation related to protecting large vehicle drivers and first responders as they navigate through roundabouts. The primary issues are that semitrailers and large vehicles need more space when travelling through a roundabout and need other vehicles to give right-of-way when entering the roundabout. In particular, trucks are not able to use their passenger side mirror when circling a multilane roundabout. For first responders, they need other vehicles to give right-of-way (either stop prior to or clear the roundabout) in order to provide their emergency response.*

*Jay provided examples of current legislation that give truck drivers the right-of-way when entering a roundabout. He first mentioned the 2015 Wisconsin Roundabout Bill, which states that passenger vehicles will yield to trucks when approaching a roundabout and that large vehicles in the right lane will yield to large vehicles in the left lane on a multilane roundabout approach. Jay also said that Indiana passed a roundabout bill in 2017 (with language similar to Wisconsin), and Washington State is recently working on a bill (with condensed language from the Wisconsin and Indiana bills).*

#### EXHIBIT 1:



*Image provided courtesy of Kimley-Horn & Associates*

You are welcome to contact Jay Von Ahsen about similar legislation possibilities in Texas. Jay can be contacted at 972-776-1749 or [jay.vonahsen@kimley-horn.com](mailto:jay.vonahsen@kimley-horn.com).

5) Roundabout Subcommittee News (Jason Vaughn)

a) Roundabout Award Subcommittee

*The Call for the 2020 Norman Hogue Roundabout of the Year Award submittals was completed on May 31. The award is in honor of Norman Hogue, an active ITE member and roundabout champion whom passed away in October 2018. The Award Subcommittee is reviewing two submittals and will provide the selected agency to the TexITE Awards Committee later this month. The selected agency will be announced as part of the Fall TexITE virtual meetings.*

b) Roundabout Education Subcommittee

*The Education Subcommittee contacted the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) about roundabout updates to the Texas Driver's Handbook. DPS personnel acquired roundabout navigation information from federal and state sources to add to the handbook. They are currently in final stages for producing an updated Driver's Handbook. The subcommittee also plans to coordinate with local cities / agencies on available roundabout driver education materials that agencies can share with their high schools and private driving schools.*

6) Proposed Committee Reorganization Plan (Jason Vaughn)

*With the TexITE Roundabout Committee providing four years of service to our members, Jason reviewed the Roundabout Committee's objectives and asked fellow chairpersons about reorganizing the Roundabout Committee. The Committee has recently taken on new objectives that are tasked to the subcommittees. Jason stated that roles need to be reassigned for these objectives and also continue to meet the committee's responsibilities to the TexITE Board.*

*Jason presented the proposed Roundabout Committee organization layout (shown in **Exhibit 2** at the end of the minutes). The primary changes include the Liaison position becoming a co-chairperson with the Presiding Committee Chair. A new Activities Chairperson position will be created for managing the two subcommittees (and other activities-related tasks for the Roundabout Committee). Jason discussed the proposed committee reorganization to the TexITE Board and the Board President and received approval. The new TexITE Roundabout Committee organization plan will take affect after the TexITE Fall Conference. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Jason Vaughn at 832-692-4078 or [jvaughn@sugarlandtx.gov](mailto:jvaughn@sugarlandtx.gov).*

7) Committee Chairperson Nominations (Jason Vaughn)

*With the TexITE conference this fall, the current Roundabout Committee chairpersons will complete their two-year terms. Therefore, Jason is requesting committee nominations for the following three chairperson positions. By TexITE By-Laws, chairperson nominees must be registered TexITE members. Nominees can be the current chairpersons, and current chairpersons can re-nominate themselves.*

- *Roundabout Committee Chairperson → presides over the Roundabout Committee and is responsible for planning and conducting the committee meetings.*
- *Activities Chairperson → manages the Roundabout Subcommittees and coordinates committee member requests with subcommittee tasks.*
- *Data Resources Chairperson → coordinate with the data resource officers; for maintaining the committee's website, Facebook page, committee membership listing, and other information sources.*

*Please send your nominations and a short bio to Jason Vaughn at [jvaughn@sugarlandtx.gov](mailto:jvaughn@sugarlandtx.gov) (and copy Gary Thomas with the TexITE Board at [gthomas@kittelson.com](mailto:gthomas@kittelson.com), as a conflict of interest check). Jason will forward committee nominations to the TexITE Board President for approval. Nominations need to be submitted to Jason and Gary by Friday September 4, 2020. Once the Board President selects and approves committee chairpersons, the new chairpersons will start their new two-year terms after the Fall Conference and until the 2022 TexITE Fall Conference.*

8) Upcoming Meetings (Jason Vaughn)

- a) TextITE Fall Meeting (virtual sessions, October 20-22, 2020)
- b) Next Roundabout Committee online meeting (early November 2020 timeframe)

Jason mentioned the upcoming TextITE Fall Meeting, which will be held as virtual sessions between Tuesday October 20 and Thursday October 22. More information will be provided at [www.textite.org](http://www.textite.org) prior to the October meetings.

9) Presentation: Joe Gustafson, P.E., PTOE, Washington County, Minnesota

- “Roundabout U – 15 Years of Outreach”

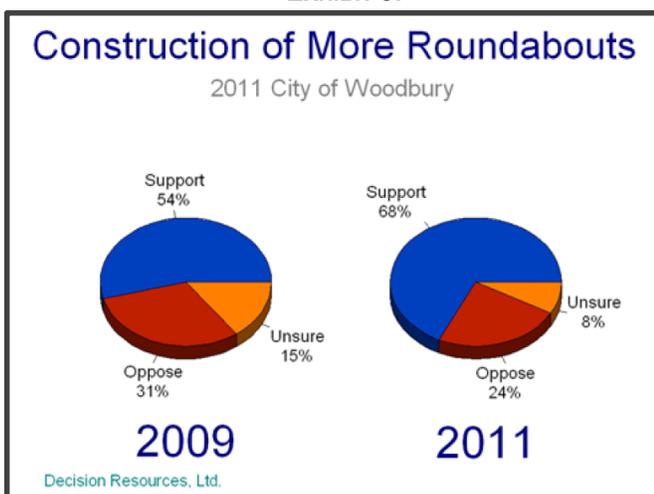
Jason introduced Joe Gustafson, who has served as the Traffic Engineer at Washington County, Minnesota since 2008, a few months after the county opened its first roundabout. He serves on the Minnesota MUTCD committee and served as the 2016 president of the North Central Section of ITE (soon to be combined into the new Great Lakes District). Joe has presented on roundabout topics to several national and Minnesota audiences. He last visited Texas in 2017, where his favorite memory was relaxing in Luckenbach.

Joe mentioned that Roundabout U has been their overall public outreach program for roundabouts over 15 years and modified throughout this period. Washington County is located in the Minneapolis and St Paul metropolitan area and constructed their first multi-lane roundabout at Radio and Bailey near Woodbury, Minnesota in 2007. Washington County has constructed 18 roundabouts and currently working on the 19<sup>th</sup> roundabout. For the Radio and Bailey intersection, the roundabout alternative was selected versus a six-lane widening alternative due to the need for a smaller cross section. With the first roundabouts, Washington County staff developed several public outreach methods (website, mail outs, and presentation settings at public events) that focused on the roundabout benefits and became the Roundabout U program.

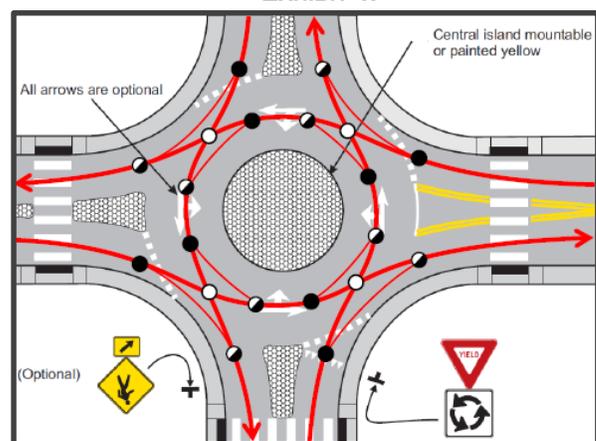
Joe mentioned that public support improved with the first roundabouts. The City of Woodbury conducted a two-year survey that showed the increase of local support for roundabouts (shown in **Exhibit 3**). However, the county noticed that even though injury-related crashes did not increase, there was a large increase in non-injury crashes at the roundabouts. The two main crash types were failure to yield crashes at roundabout entries and improper lane changes within the roundabout. One issue was that drivers were used to other traffic circles (not designed to current roundabout standards).

Therefore, Joe said the Roundabout U program switched from roundabout benefits to an educational focus to reduce roundabout crashes. One primary goal was to show residents that roundabouts are not circle roadways but a series of crossing movements (shown in **Exhibit 4**). Washington County started coordinating with the Woodbury Police Department and providing enforcement flyers (to educate drivers and reduce issuing traffic tickets). County staff also improved multi-lane roundabout awareness by replacing the fish hook sign (at roundabout entries) with the standard arrow and dot sign and added a both lanes plaque to the yield signs.

**EXHIBIT 3:**



**EXHIBIT 4:**



Images provided courtesy of Washington County, Minnesota

*Joe mentioned that Washington County developed a new standard pavement marking detail for multi-lane roundabouts. The arrows in the roundabout were moved up closer to the exit, and the lane lines were improved to a stronger skip marking. They also added an unmarked groove (for bituminous pavements) or joint (for concrete pavements) along the inside lane for guidance. County staff also updated their education brochures to state crossing (and not circulating) movements at roundabouts.*

*One last update to the Roundabout U program were roundabout diets conducted in 2013. Washington County noticed that the entering volumes on some two-lane approaches were low but the vehicle speeds increased entering the roundabout. County staff used crosshatch markings and delineators to close the outside lane on some two-lane entries (changing the roundabout to 2 x 1 layouts). The result showed a reduction in failure to yield and improper lane change crashes at the modified roundabouts. Joe finished with stating that agencies need be consistent with their roundabout messages, be willing to change their message with roundabout improvements, and be ready to accept successful roundabout operations.*

10) Adjourn

- a) For comments or questions, contact Jason Vaughn at:  
832-692-4078 or [jvaughn@sugarlandtx.gov](mailto:jvaughn@sugarlandtx.gov)

EXHIBIT 2:



# TEXITE ROUNDABOUT COMMITTEE

## Proposed Committee Reorganization – Fall 2020



### Presiding Committee Chairperson

- Schedule and manage at most four TexITE Roundabout Committee meetings per year. Two in-person meetings can be held at the biannual TexITE conferences.
- Prepare meeting agendas and minutes and provide to committee members. Also locate and request meeting speakers for the online meetings.
- Attend TexITE Board meetings at the conferences and provide a report on Roundabout Committee activities to the Board.
- Coordinate committee business activities with committee chairpersons and members.

### Liaison Co-Chairperson

- Attend the ITE Roundabout Committee and TRB Committee on Roundabouts meetings (both in-person and online meetings).
- Take meeting notes and provide reports at the TexITE Roundabout Committee meetings. Correspond TexITE Roundabout Committee business and requests to the national roundabout committees.



### Activities Chairperson

- Coordinate and manage the subcommittees for the TexITE Roundabout Committee. Select the subcommittee members and set schedules for subcommittee activities.
- Provide subcommittee reports at the TexITE Roundabout Committee meetings. Coordinate with members on subcommittee task requests.

### Awards Sub-Committee

- Manage the annual Norman Hogue Roundabout Project of the Year Award submittal process.
- Organize the subcommittee in mid-December and discuss the award submittal process. Coordinate with the TexITE Awards Committee on starting the award submittal announcement (by early February).
- Once submittals are received by the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline, contact the subcommittee to review and score the submittals. Determine final scores and provide the selection to the TexITE Awards Committee.

### Education Sub-Committee

- Coordinate with the Texas DPS on roundabout section updates to the Texas Driver's Manual.
- Provide / review roundabout educational resources for driver's education programs within Texas.



### Data Resources Chairperson

- Coordinate with the data resource officers (listed below) to maintain the committee's TexasRoundabouts.com website and the committee's Facebook page. Work with officers on committee update requests for the Texas Roundabouts website and TRC Facebook page.
- Provide data resource updates at the TexITE Roundabout Committee meetings.
- Maintain the committee's membership list and provide list updates to the Presiding Committee Chair (for email listserv updates).

### Texas Roundabouts Webmasters

- Manage the website content for the TexITE Roundabout Committee.
- The website domain is the personal property of John Denholm, whom has made the website available for the roundabout committee's use.
- Receive and review member updates to the Roundabout Mapper App; managed by the GIS Division at Dunaway Associates.

### TRC Facebook Manager

- Manage the Facebook page content for the TexITE Roundabout Committee.
- Coordinate with committee members on Facebook page updates.

