Replacing traffic signals with roundabouts saves fuel and reduces harmful emissions

The PA Greener and Safer Intersections Act of 2012 would provide a direct investment of $35 million into Pennsylvania’s roads by replacing traditional signalized intersections with modern roundabouts. These roundabouts improve efficiency of traffic flow, which reduces the need to brake and accelerate, reducing harmful emissions and improving fuel economy for the driver. Roundabouts have been shown to virtually eliminate fatal accidents and reduce injury accidents that happen at traditional intersections.

Benefits of Roundabouts

- Significant reduction in vehicle emissions
- Improved fuel economy for drivers
- Increased efficiency of traffic flow
- Lower Utility Costs
- Lower Maintenance Costs
- Significant Reduction in Accidents

Investing in a Greener and Safer Pennsylvania

Moving Into the Future

Many states have already taken advantage of the benefits of roundabouts and this Act is designed to guide Pennsylvania into the future. One percent of Pennsylvania’s 14,000 intersections will be converted into roundabouts by the year 2020, beginning with five in the year 2013 and increasing every year.

Locations and Success

A PENN DOT task force will be formed to determine the locations that will benefit from roundabout implementation. The 25 locations chosen to be converted in the first three years will provide the studies to measure the success of the program. Success will be determined by a greater than 20% reduction in harmful emissions, and a greater than 50% reduction in fatal accidents. Emissions and fuel economy studies will be conducted using SIDRA Intersection software. Location will be chosen based on safety, maintenance needs of location, high pollution area, and the financial situation of the local area. A public forum will be available, as well as roundabout education media, and a transparency website will provide data about the success of the program.

For more information:
Please contact the PA Roundabout Information Center or visit roundabouts.pa.gov