

Roundabout survey

Methodology:

Ipsos online panel survey conducted January 2 to 5, 2024. 636 surveys completed out of a total of 801 respondents. Those who did not have a valid B.C. driver's licence and/or have never driven through a roundabout were screened out (165). Survey is representative of drivers in British Columbia.

This summary utilizes top two box (rated six and seven) and bottom three box (rated one to three) for all questions with seven-point scales.

Key findings:

Overview of confidence levels when navigating single-lane and multi-lane roundabouts

In summary, the confidence levels of drivers are generally higher across all aspects of navigating a single-lane roundabout compared to a multi-lane roundabout, indicating a disparity in driver's perception of the skill level required to navigate the two types of roundabouts.

Single-lane roundabouts:

- **Overall confidence:** A majority of respondents (57%) express confidence in their overall navigation through a single-lane roundabout, with a rating of 6 or 7 – 'very confident' on the scale.
- **Approach confidence:** Similarly, 59% of respondents feel confident when approaching a single-lane roundabout, reflecting a high level of assurance in this phase of navigation.
- **Navigation within the roundabout:** Maintaining consistency, 59% indicate they're confident while navigating inside a single-lane roundabout, indicating a steady level of assurance during the passage through the roundabout itself.



- **Exit confidence:** Notably, confidence peaks when exiting a single-lane roundabout, with 62% of respondents feeling confident in their ability to exit smoothly.

Multi-lane roundabouts:

- **Overall navigation:** Only 29% of respondents express confidence (with a rating of 6 or 7 – ‘very confident’) in navigating a multi-lane roundabout, indicating a relatively lower level of assurance compared to navigating a single-lane roundabout. Unlike for single-lane roundabouts where there were no notable differences between male and female drivers, for multi-lane roundabouts, male drivers (34%) express more confidence in overall navigation than female drivers (24%).
- **Approach confidence:** Confidence in approaching a multi-lane roundabout stands at 37%. Confidence is significantly higher among male drivers (42%) compared to female drivers (31%).
- **Navigation inside a multi-lane roundabout:** Confidence levels for navigating inside a multi-lane roundabout are reported at 31%. Again, male drivers (36%) express more confidence compared to female drivers (25%).
- **Exit confidence:** Slightly higher confidence levels are seen for exiting a multi-lane roundabout at 38%. Furthermore, male drivers (45%) demonstrate significantly higher confidence than female drivers (31%).

Perceived ease or difficulty when navigating various aspects of a roundabout

In summary, understanding the right of way and selecting the correct exit out of a roundabout are perceived as relatively easier aspects when navigating a roundabout as a driver, while navigating cyclists within a roundabout and navigating marked crosswalks with pedestrians or cyclists while entering or exiting a roundabout pose more of a challenge for a notable percentage of respondents. Furthermore, female drivers find cyclist presence within roundabouts, entering and exiting multi-lane roundabouts in the correct lane, and choosing the correct exit out of a roundabout more challenging compared to male drivers.



- **Navigating marked crosswalks with pedestrians or cyclists crossing:** 31% find it easy (a rating of 6 or 7 – ‘very easy’ on the 7-point scale), while 22% find it difficult (a rating of 1 – very difficult, 2 or 3 on the scale) when navigating a marked crosswalk with pedestrians or cyclists crossing while entering or exiting a roundabout.
- **Cyclist presence within roundabouts:** 21% find it easy, whereas 34% find it difficult to navigate through a roundabout with a cyclist already inside. Notably, female drivers (39%) are more likely to find this aspect of roundabouts more difficult to navigate than male drivers (26%).
- **Entering and exiting multi-lane roundabouts in the correct lane:** When it comes to entering a multi-lane roundabout in the correct lane, 31% of drivers find it easy, while 17% find it difficult. Similarly, for exiting a multi-lane roundabout in the correct lane, 33% find it easy, while 18% find it difficult. In comparison, male drivers are more likely than female drivers to find both entering (35% vs. 27%) and exiting (38% vs. 27%) multi-lane roundabouts in the correct lane to be easy.
- **Understanding right of way:** Knowing who has the right of way when entering a roundabout is perceived as easy by 42% of drivers, while 15% find it difficult.
- **Choosing the correct exit:** 35% find it easy to take the correct exit out of a roundabout for their desired route, while 14% find it difficult. Moreover, male drivers (41%) are more likely than female drivers (30%) to find this task easy.

Top frustrations observed with other drivers when approaching, navigating or exiting a roundabout

Respondents were provided a list of possible issues they may encounter with other drivers when navigating a roundabout and were asked to rank in order of what caused frustration.

In summary, not yielding to the vehicle that has the right of way at roundabouts emerged as the most frustrating behaviour observed among other drivers when navigating a roundabout, followed closely by the lack of signaling when exiting a roundabout. Other issues surveyed were ranked within the top three most frustrating issues observed at roundabouts by only a minority of respondents.



The top ranked issues observed with other drivers include:

- Not yielding to vehicles that have the right of way in the roundabout is the top frustration at 37% who rank this issue as their number one issue observed among other drivers. And 73% rank this issue in their top three frustrations.
- Close behind is the absence of signaling when exiting the roundabout, ranked first by 16% of respondents. And 51% rank this issue in their top three frustrations.
- These two issues were the only issues among those asked about where a majority of respondents ranked them within their top three most frustrating – all other issues were ranked among the top three by less than half of respondents, indicating they're much less frustrating for drivers.

