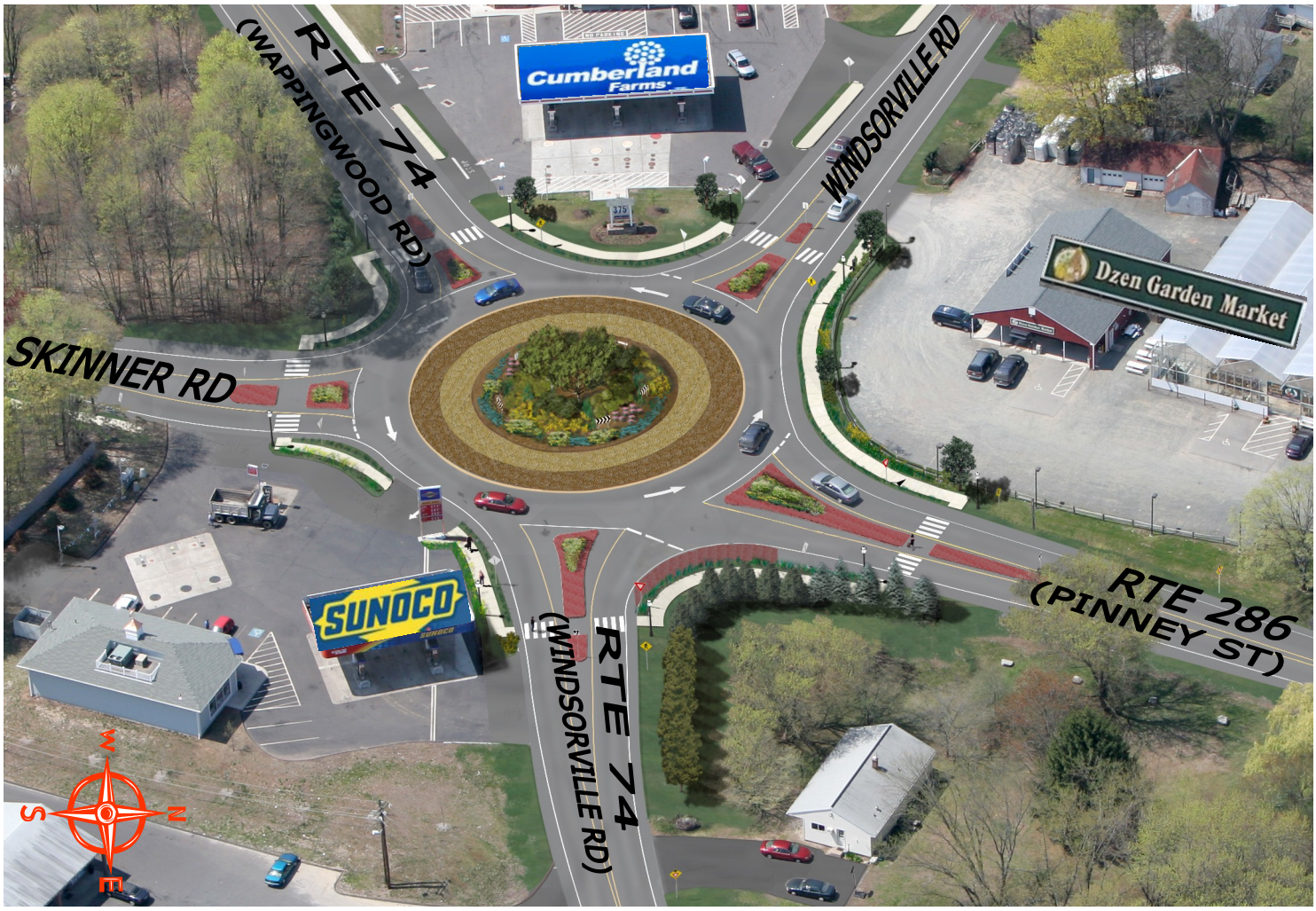
BENEFITS AND OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

ROUNDABOUT AT ROUTES 74 & 286
"FIVE CORNERS"
TOWN OF ELLINGTON

EXISTING CONDITIONS



PROPOSED ROUNDABOUT

ROUNDABOUT—FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Roundabout?

A roundabout is an alternative type of circular intersection design that reduces the number of conflict points found at traditional intersections. Roundabouts constructed in appropriate locations have proven safety benefits due to low operating speeds achieved through curved travel paths. Low speeds allow drivers more time to react to one another, resulting in fewer and less severe accidents. Raised islands (splitter islands) on the approach roadways help to slow vehicles before entering the roundabout and direct traffic in a counter clockwise direction.

Although often confused with the old traffic circles, modern roundabouts are considerably smaller and use yield on approach as opposed to yielding within the circle. There is also no need to weave across traffic to exit a roundabout, as occurred with some traffic circles. Drivers in the roundabout have the right of way. Drivers approaching the roundabout yield to traffic in the roundabout, turn right to enter, and turn right to exit the roundabout.

Vehicles on multiple legs of the intersection will be able to safely enter the roundabout at the same time, significantly improving efficiency over the previous stop control intersection, where only one vehicle at a time could pass through the intersection. Other safety features include sidewalks for pedestrians around the intersection, crosswalks on each approach, and roadway lighting for better night time visibility of the intersection.

How do trucks and other large vehicles make it through a Roundabout?

Roundabouts are designed with a "truck apron" on the inside of the circulatory roadway. The apron is slightly raised above the pavement to discourage travel by passenger cars (keeping speeds low) and is intended to accommodate the rear wheels of large vehicles and long trailers as they navigate the turns required at the intersection.

How do pedestrians use a Roundabout?

Pedestrians should use the sidewalks and crosswalks to navigate their way through the intersection. Crosswalks are provided at each leg of the roundabout along with sidewalks around the entire perimeter of the intersection. Pedestrians should never cross to the center island of the roundabout. The colored concrete truck apron is intended for use by the rear wheels of trucks or long trailers to travel as they navigate the roundabout and would conflict with pedestrian use of the apron. The raised islands on each approach leg of the intersection provide a refuge area, so pedestrians only need to have a gap in one direction of traffic at a time to cross. Pedestrians can wait in the refuge area for a safe gap in the other direction of traffic.

How do bicycles use a Roundabout?

Experienced bicyclists may utilize the roundabout in the manner as an automobile, utilizing the center of the travel lane. The lower vehicular speed associated with a roundabout is generally within the ability of an experienced bicyclist to keep up with traffic. Less proficient bicyclists and children should exit the roadway at the crosswalk and walk their bicycles along the sidewalk in the same manner as a pedestrian.

BENEFITS OF A "MODERN ROUNDABOUT"

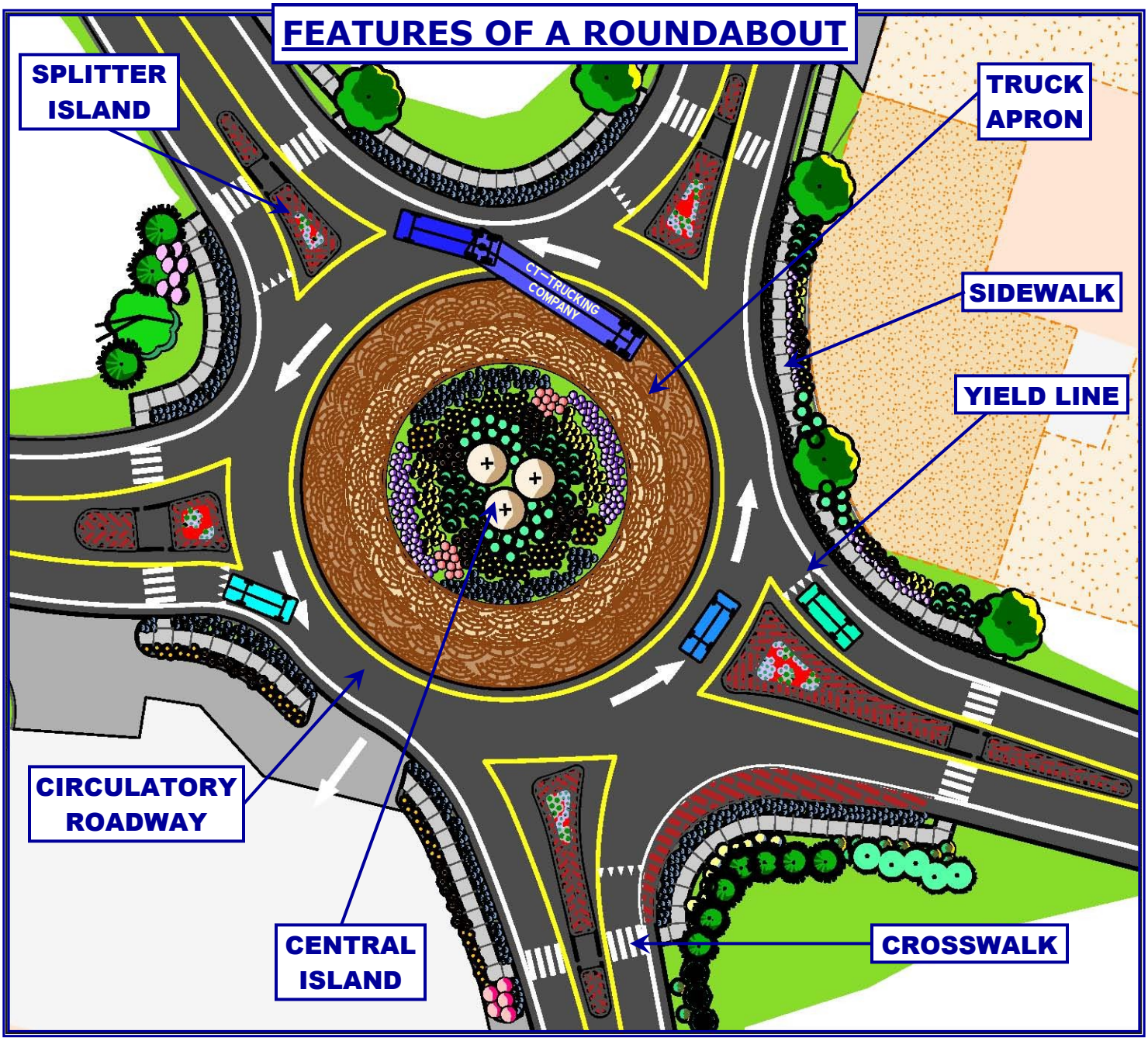
Decreased Delays & Congestion
Yield on Entry
Continuous Traffic Flow
All Traffic Movements are Right Turns
Efficient Movement of Traffic

Safety
Low Speeds
Fewer Accidents and Injuries
Fewer conflict Points
Fewer decisions required by drivers

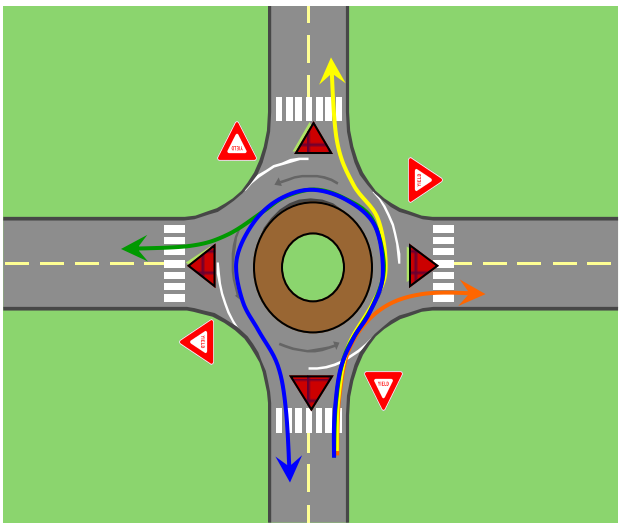
Reduction in Pollution & Fuel Use
Improved Traffic Flow—No Left Turns
Reduced Traffic Queues and Idling

Community Benefits
Traffic Calming
Aesthetic Landscaping "Gateway to Town"

FEATURES OF A ROUNDABOUT



DRIVING A ROUNDABOUT



- ⇒ Reduce speed and prepare to yield as you approach the roundabout
- ⇒ Vehicles in the roundabout have the right of way.
- ⇒ Look to your left, when there is a safe gap in traffic proceed into the roundabout
- ⇒ All vehicles turn right, when entering the roundabout
- ⇒ Display your right-turn signal just prior to your desired exit and turn right to exit the roundabout

CONTACTS & PROJECT INFORMATION

(Please reference State Project No. 47-116)

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SCHEDULE :

Anticipated Completion of Roadway Construction — Fall 2011
Completed Landscaping — Spring 2012

ADDITIONAL ROUNDABOUT INFORMATION:

Connecticut Department of Transportation— http://www.ct.gov/dot/roundabouts
Federal Highway Administration—http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/intersection/roundabouts/fhwasa08006/
Town of Ellington Webpage—http://ellington-ct.gov/Plugs/our_town_page.aspx