

Field Workshop in Techniques and Cues used by Pedestrians who are Blind at Roundabouts

Since the Access Board published the draft Public Rights of Way Accessibility Guidelines in June 2002, there has been a great deal of discussion about issues related to pedestrians who are blind or who have low vision at roundabouts. Because it is necessary to design accessible pedestrian facilities, the designer/engineer who understands these issues is much more likely to be successful in selecting and/or designing appropriate accessibility features.

With several roundabouts near the site of the conference, this workshop will give roundabout proponents and designers the opportunity to go to roundabouts with pedestrians who are blind and with experienced orientation and mobility specialists in order to gain first-hand experience with some of the issues relevant to blind pedestrians at modern roundabouts.

Join this workshop if you're interested in a challenging afternoon outdoors and want to really be aware of some of the issues to consider in designing for all users. Buses will take us to Avon where we will break into small groups and experience various aspects of the roundabouts there as they might be experienced by persons with blindness or low vision. Each group will be accompanied by orientation and mobility specialist, experienced in teaching people who are blind to travel.

Activities will include

- demonstration of techniques used by pedestrians who are blind;
- practice listening for gaps in traffic and for yielding traffic in order to determine when to cross, without vision and/or with simulated low vision;
- actual nonvisual street crossing experience (if desired);
- an opportunity to identify tactile sidewalk or splitter island features, some that may be helpful and some that may present problems in locating the crosswalk and aligning to cross;

Workshop leaders will be stationed at four different locations at the roundabouts in downtown Avon. At each location, the leader will discuss one of the above aspects of the roundabout crossing for pedestrians who are blind and lead the group in an exercise at that location. After each group has had a chance to rotate to each 'station', the participants will return to the conference site for a wrap-up discussion and question and answer session.

Workshop limited to 24 people.... 4 groups of 6 plus a leader.
Dress for the weather.

Workshop leader

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