

Reduced Conflict U-Turn (RCUT)

A Reduced Conflict U-turn (RCUT), also called a Restricted Crossing U-turn, is an intersection design that reduces conflict points to improve safety and traffic flow. Instead of going straight or turning left from a side road, drivers turn right and then make a U-turn at a designated location. This replaces more dangerous crossing movements with simpler, safer ones.



Why TxDOT Uses RCUTs



Safety

Fewer crossing conflicts results in fewer severe crashes.



Traffic Flow

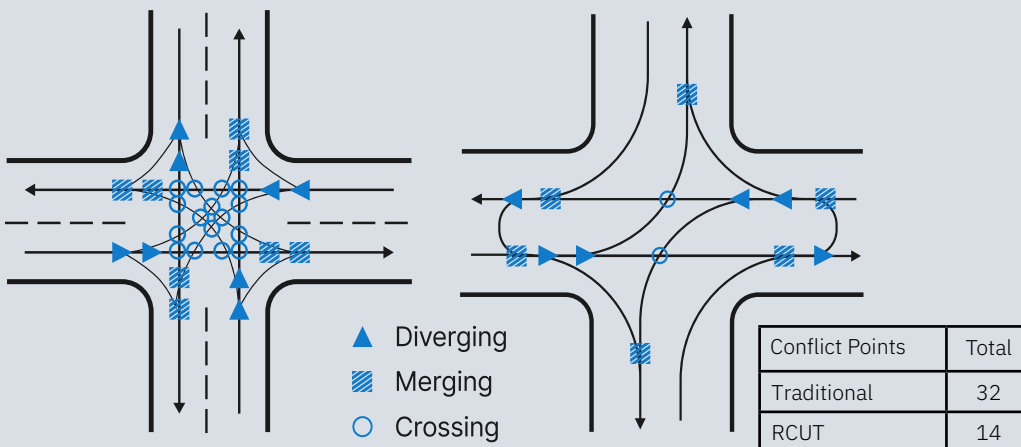
By reducing crossing conflicts, RCUTs help traffic on the main road move more smoothly. A San Antonio study found improved travel time reliability through the corridor.



Flexibility

Works well with many existing roads, including urban, suburban, and rural locations. Often requires only minor roadway construction. RCUTs can be signalized or unsignalized.

Fewer Opportunities for Cars to Crash = Safer Roads



Reduction in fatal and injury crashes (per FHWA)

Unsignalized Intersection to Unsignalized RCUT: **63%**

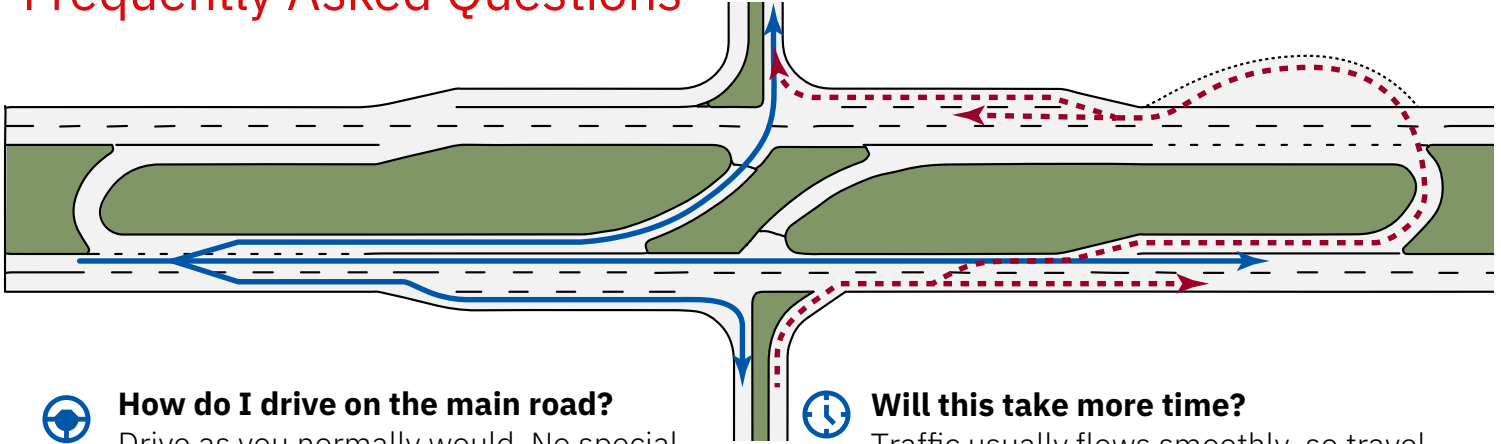
Two-Way Stop-Controlled to RCUT: **54%**

Signalized Intersection to Signalized RCUT: **22%**

Conflict points at traditional intersection vs. RCUT

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Frequently Asked Questions



How do I drive on the main road?

Drive as you normally would. No special steps are needed.



Will this take more time?

Traffic usually flows smoothly, so travel time is similar.



How do I go straight or turn left from the side road?

Turn right onto the main road.
Then use the marked U-turn to go in your desired direction.



Why are U-turns used instead of left turns?

They replace the most dangerous crash types—like T-bone (angle) crashes—with less severe ones, such as sideswipe crashes. This helps improve overall safety.



How are large trucks handled?

RCUTs include wider areas and design features that allow trucks to slow down, turn safely, and speed up safely.

How to navigate as pedestrians



Using Crosswalks

When sidewalks or bike paths are available, use marked crosswalks.



Crossing the Main Road

(example A → D)

First, cross the side road A → B.

Cross main road B → E and wait in the median island (E).

Then cross main road E → C.

Finally, cross side road C → D.

Always look for traffic and use your judgement to cross when it is safe.

