

Learn More

On **Tuesday, June 26 at 7:00 p.m.**, Town officials, the Town Center Committee and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation are holding a public information meeting at Portsmouth High School on the Town Center Plan, roundabouts and the proposed transportation plan to calm traffic and improve safety in the Town Center. Everyone in town is invited to come.

Place	Portsmouth High School
Date	Tuesday, June 26
Time	7:00 PM

If you are unable to attend but want to learn more, please contact Town Center Committee Chair **Carol Dietz** at cadietz@aol.com.

For more information on roundabouts: www.dot.state.ri.us/engineering/traffic/roundabouts/index.htm.



Existing Section. Town Hall to Mid-Point



Proposed Section. Town Hall to Mid-Point

Highway Engineering
RI Dept. of Transportation
Two Capitol Hill
Room 226
Providence, RI 02903



Taming Traffic on East Main Road

Sponsored by:

- Town of Portsmouth
- Town Center Committee
- RI Department of Transportation

Public Information Meeting

Tuesday, June 26 at 7 p.m.

Portsmouth High School

Education Lane

Portsmouth, Rhode Island



Existing view of East Main Road, above, and proposed, right

Creating a New Town Center

In 2003 a committee of residents, working with the Town and businesses, began work on a plan for a new Portsmouth Town Center on East Main Road between Town Hall and the Town Library and Freeborn Street. The plan's goal was to improve safety by reducing traffic speed while making pedestrian friendly improvements. The Committee, working with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT), is proposing traffic calming techniques which include roundabouts, new sidewalks and median islands to control traffic as part of this plan.

East Main Road Today

Traffic is heavy and moves too fast. There is an average of one accident each week. Sadly, a few have involved pedestrians. Residents and business patrons have difficulty getting in and out of drive-



ways. It's hard to walk to or between businesses on East Main Road. In general, the environment is dominated by fast moving vehicles often just traveling through town.

Roundabouts Improve Safety

Modern roundabouts are being constructed more and more frequently to slow traffic speeds and improve safety as gateways to village environments. Many people think a roundabout is the same as the "old fashioned" rotary. While both are shaped like a circle, they are designed, and they perform, quite differently. Roundabouts are much safer than rotaries because their smaller size and means of entry force drivers to use slower speeds. In fact, it's difficult to navigate a properly designed roundabout at speeds of more than 25 mph. Also, roundabouts have 75% fewer points where vehicles can collide than a traditional intersection.

These two advantages have led to tremendous reductions in crashes, especially those in which people are injured.

In addition to improving safety, modern roundabouts move traffic more efficiently thereby reducing congestion, pollution, and fuel use. They are less expensive to operate and maintain than traffic signals and can be beautifully landscaped. Roundabouts are currently being used extensively in Maryland, Florida, Vermont and New York

Roundabouts on East Main Road will also serve as a gateway to the Town Center and give a visual cue to motorists that they are entering a new zone – Portsmouth Town Center – and it's time to slow down and perhaps stop and shop at area businesses.

Proposed Town Center Plan view

