

## Going with the flow of roundabout traffic in Cadillac

Prein&Newhof

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Have you noticed an increase in the number of roundabouts appearing in your area? Roundabouts, or “traffic circles,” are widespread throughout Europe and are gaining popularity in American traffic engineering for a good reason. They are statistically proven to increase safety and to reduce long-term maintenance costs, when compared to traditional intersections with traffic lights or stop signs.

By design, a circular intersection forces traffic to move around a central island in a counterclockwise direction. This reduces distracted driving and eliminates head-on or left-turn crashes that frequently result in serious injuries when compared to a standard traffic light or stop controlled intersection. From a maintenance perspective, switching to a roundabout can save roughly \$5,000 a year in traffic light maintenance. By reducing vehicle speeds and dividing the crossing into two stages using splitter islands, a roundabout provides a safer pathway for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Aware of the benefits of this traffic design element, **Prein&Newhof Project Manager Connie Boice, PE** (formerly Houk) proposed the construction of a new roundabout as a solution to the traffic challenges at the intersection of Crosby Road and Division Street in the City of Cadillac. The intersection, which lies just west of US-131, was well known to have traffic backups on Crosby where some drivers waited ten minutes or more to turn into an open space in traffic. Traffic for Baker College, the YMCA, and the Wexford-Missaukee ISD all contribute to heavy traffic volumes at this intersection throughout the day. Because it was only a two-way stop, drivers on Crosby had difficulty entering Division, a busy roadway frequently traveled to access US-131, Lake City, and Houghton Lake from downtown Cadillac.

When the project was originally proposed in 2018, Boice had the idea of applying for a State of Michigan MDOT Safety Grant to fund a portion of the cost. While these types of grants are usually awarded to projects that involve more dangerous intersections, Boice said that the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) immediately recognized the value of having a roundabout at this location due to its notorious traffic backups. A successful roundabout was

already located nearby at the intersection of 13th Street and Plett Road in Cadillac, and it was evident that this intersection would benefit from the same approach. Funds to pay for the project came from a combined total of the \$600,000 awarded through the MDOT Safety Grant and the City of Cadillac’s contribution of \$264,800 from the its major streets fund.

As the City’s engineer, Prein&Newhof helped to secure the grant from MDOT, performed a traffic safety analysis, designed the preliminary engineering plans in accordance with MDOT’s standards, and provided surveying and construction observation.

“Traffic was detoured on local streets and US-131 for the duration of construction in order to allow the contractor, Crawford Contracting, Inc., to work as fast as possible. With this approach, the roundabout opened ten days early,” says Boice.

The disruption of traffic for this construction was worth the effort. Cadillac’s newest roundabout officially opened in early November 2021, after three years of project planning and construction.

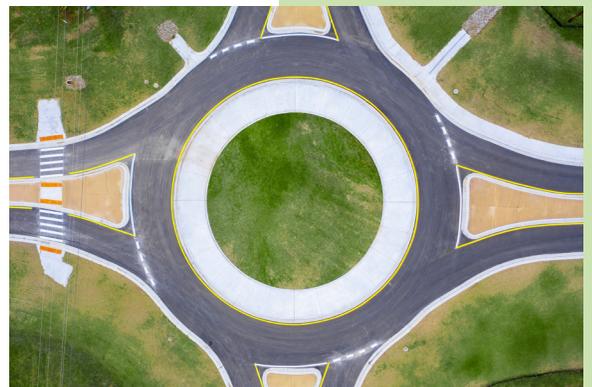
In addition to its primary goal of improving vehicle flow through the intersection, this roundabout is designed to include a landscaped center, illuminated light poles, and access points for bicyclists and pedestrians as enhancements.

Cadillac’s new roundabout has already proven to be a valuable investment. Traffic now moves more efficiently through this intersection with the safety of the local community and its visitors in mind. If you have a traffic flow or a safety issue in your community, contact **Connie Boice, PE** at 616-364-8491.



“This was a great project to reduce vehicle delays and improve safety for the traveling public. We are very appreciative of the additional funding provided by MDOT through the Safety Grant.”

Marcus Peccia,  
City Manager



## P&N Engineer honored with AWWA-MI Service Award

Congratulations to **Prein&Newhof Senior Project Manager Tom Smith III, PE** who recently received the Raymond J. Faust Award from the Michigan Section of the American Water Works Association (AWWA-MI).

This award commemorates Raymond J. Faust’s contributions to safe public health engineering practices, his advancement of sound water supplies, and his dedication to building and promoting the waterworks industry. Smith is certainly deserving of this honor that recognizes outstanding personal service in the water supply field, both for the work he performs at Prein&Newhof and in his various roles on numerous industry-related professional associations.

During his 30+ years in the profession, Smith has developed his knowledge and experience in hydrologic and hydraulic engineering and modeling for township and municipal clients. Smith has been an AWWA member since 1994, and has served as MI-AWWA Chair, Trustee, and as a member/chair of various of its committees and councils. He is also an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Association of State Floodplain Managers, Water Environment Federation, and Michigan Stormwater Floodplain Association.



Tom Smith III, PE



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**Prein&Newhof**

## Five New Professionals Join Our Team

**Adam Sayers** joined Prein&Newhof in November as a Laboratory Technician. Adam has ten years of experience as a Laboratory Analyst as well as experience sampling groundwater, surface water and wastewater. Adam has a bachelor's degree in Biomedical Sciences from Grand Valley State University and a Master's degree in Medical Sciences from the University of South Florida.

**Chelsea Moore** began working at Prein&Newhof as a Laboratory Technician in October. Chelsea has a bachelor's degree in Geology from Hope College and has two years of experience working as a Wet Chemistry Analyst and Laboratory Intern.

**Jessie Morales** joined Prein&Newhof in November as an Accounting & Administrative Assistant in our Grand Rapids office. Jessie graduated from Davenport University with a Bachelor of Business Administration and an Associates of Business Administration in Accounting.

**Jordan Quist** began working in a dual role as a Surveyor and Survey CAD Technician from our Grand Rapids office in September. He is graduating from Ferris State University this winter with his bachelor's degree in Surveying Engineering.

**Michael Anderson, EIT** joined Prein&Newhof in September as an Engineer-in-Training in our Grand Rapids office. Michael graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering. He has experience working as an Environmental Technician.

## Prein&Newhof receives PSMJ Circle of Excellence

Prein&Newhof is pleased to announce that PSMJ Resources, Inc. selected our company as a 2021 Circle of Excellence member. This is our seventh year receiving this recognition in eight years.

PSMJ Resources, Inc. is a leading management consulting firm for the architecture and engineering industries. Each year it conducts a financial performance benchmark survey of firms to highlight those who are successful in areas such as profitability, overhead management, cash flow, productivity, business development, staff growth, and turnover. The Circle of Excellence represents the top 20 percent of participants and is based on 13 key performance metrics.

We believe that this notable honor reflects the quality of our clients, our business relationships, and the foundation of integrity we strive to stand on.

### Prein&Newhof specializes in:

- Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Environmental Consulting
- Surveying
- Geographic Information Systems
- Laboratory Testing

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