

# US-81 & N-12 Roundabout Project

## About This Project

NDOT is building a rural, single-lane roundabout at the intersection of US-81 and N-12 in Cedar County. This project is funded through the federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), which is designated exclusively for safety improvements.

## Proposed Project Details

Location	Project Type	Estimated Cost	Tentative Timeline
US-81 & N-12, Cedar County	Single-lane roundabout	\$7.4 million	Spring to Fall 2027

## What is Being Built

Beyond the roundabout itself, the project includes:

- Raising the intersection approximately 6 feet to improve visibility
- Updated lighting designed for the new intersection
- Roundabout warning signs and rumble strips on all approaches

## Tentative Construction Timeline



**DESIGN & PERMITTING**  
2025 – 2026



**CONSTRUCTION BID LETTING**  
2026 – 2027



**CONSTRUCTION**  
Spring – Fall 2027



**OPEN TO TRAFFIC**  
Late 2027

## Stay Informed

Use your phone camera to hover over the QR code and click to visit the project webiste: [ndot.info/32409](https://ndot.info/32409).



## Why This Intersection?

**15 TOTAL CRASHES** **3 FATAL CRASHES** **73%** **OF CRASHES WERE ANGLE CRASHES**  
*(side impact/t-bone)*

Between 2016 and 2025, this intersection averaged more than one crash per year. Three of those crashes took lives.

Nearly 3 in 4 crashes occurred when a driver on N-12 pulled into US-81 traffic traveling at 65 mph.

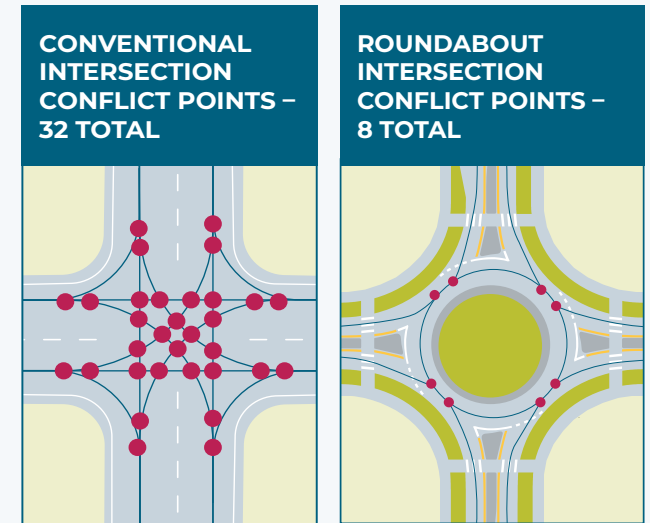
## Implemented Safety Measures

NDOT has installed safety measures at this intersection, including overhead lighting, flashing beacons on stop signs, rumble strips, and additional advance warning signs on N-12.

## How a Roundabout Can Improve Safety

A roundabout changes how the intersection works. Instead of crossing high-speed traffic, all vehicles:

- Slow to 20 mph before entering, which is reinforced by the roundabout's approach and curves
- Yield and merge rather than cross opposing traffic
- Travel in the same direction



— Traffic Flow ● Vehicle-Vehicle Conflict Points

## How Roundabouts Work

Roundabouts improve safety in two ways:

1. Reducing the number of crashes and<sup>1</sup>
2. Reducing the severity of any crashes that may happen.<sup>2</sup>

### Slower speeds where it matters

Today, US-81 traffic passes through at 65 mph. A roundabout's curves and center island require all vehicles to slow to 20 mph. Signs require drivers to yield to traffic already in the roundabout.

### No more crossing oncoming traffic

Currently, N-12 drivers must negotiate traffic moving at 65 mph to cross or turn.

## Nebraska's Rural Roundabout Safety Performance

Safety performance of Nebraska roundabouts similar to US-81 & N-12.

Location	Fatal/Serious Injury	All Injury Crashes	Total Crashes
US-77 & N-32, Oakland (10 yr)	-67%	-83%	-45%
N-31 & N-36, Bennington (5 yr)	-100%	-64%	-27%
US-6 & N-103, Pleasant Dale (10yr)	-100%	-83%	-63%

<sup>1</sup> Federal Highway Administration, "Intersection Safety," FHWA, accessed May 6, 2026.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Highway Administration, "Roundabouts," FHWA, accessed May 6, 2026.

## Common Questions

### Why not a 4-way stop?

A 4-way stop could increase intersection delays by as much as 85%. Unlike a 4-way stop or a traffic signal, a roundabout does not require any vehicles to come to complete stop when the intersection is clear. Vehicles yield on entry and keep moving.

### Can semis, farm equipment, and large trucks navigate a roundabout?

Yes. Rural roundabouts include a truck apron – a raised, mountable surface around the center island that large trucks can drive over with their rear wheels, giving them the space needed to complete the turn.

### Is \$7.4 million too much to spend?

Roundabouts are one of the most cost-effective safety improvements.

- This project is funded with **federal safety dollars (HSIP)**—can only be used for safety

### How will the visibility of the intersection be affected?

NDOT is raising the intersection approximately 6 feet, which improves sight distance. The project also includes updated lighting and roundabout warning signs on all approaches.

### What about a future 4-lane expansion?

Based on current and projected traffic levels, a 4-lane expansion of US-81 in Cedar County is not anticipated in the next 20 years. The roundabout addresses safety at this intersection with funding that is available today.