Congratulations to the City of Sarasota, FL, for receiving the ITE Roundabout Standing Committee’s 2021 Innovative Roundabout of Merit Award. This award seeks to advance the state of the art by disseminating all the very interesting innovations to practitioners worldwide. By recognizing Innovative Roundabouts of Merit, the committee hopes to raise the profile of modern roundabouts and inspire others to develop further advancements in modern roundabout design.

In 2000, the urban planning firm of Duany-Plater, Zyberk & Company created a Downtown Master Plan 2020 for the City of Sarasota. The Master Plan recommended the city consider replacing many of its signalized intersections with modern roundabouts to promote better circulation both for pedestrians and motorists. After several downtown roundabouts were constructed, the Sarasota City Commission decided, in 2013, that future roundabouts should include public art as Sarasota is well known as an arts and cultural community. To date, three new roundabouts have received public artwork installations that enhance the city streetscape.

The installation of artwork in these downtown roundabouts is an innovative and creative means for improving and beautifying urban streetscapes. These prominent sculptures calm
traffic as vehicles enter and circulate through the roundabouts—while not being a distraction to drivers or pedestrians. Art in the roundabouts has diversified the city’s cultural attractions and transformed the landscape by incorporating artwork as a roundabout’s central point of interest.

See a short video highlighting the City of Sarasota’s Art in the Roundabouts program here.

To see descriptions of the installed artwork and what each symbolizes to the city, check out all their innovative roundabouts here.

About ITE — Founded in 1930, ITE is a community of transportation professionals including transportation engineers, transportation planners, consultants, educators, technologists, and researchers. Through meetings, seminars, publications, and a network of more than 16,000 members working in 78 countries, ITE connects members to a world of ideas, people, and resources. The Institute of Transportation Engineers’ (ITE) international awards program honors outstanding achievement in transportation and distinguished service to ITE. The awards bestow international recognition upon the recipients and increase the public’s awareness of the role and responsibilities of the transportation professional. For more information, visit www.ite.org.

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