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May 15, 2023

All Around a Roundabout with Ronda Bout

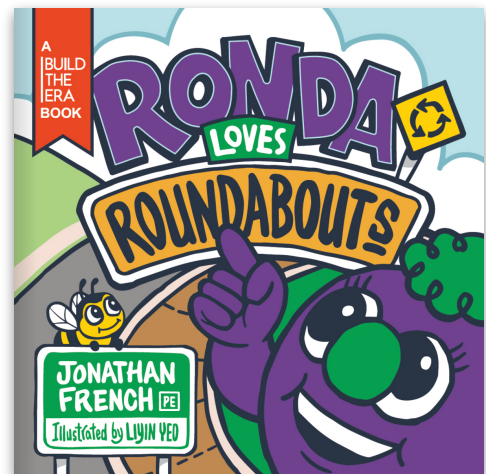
Build The Era's new and groundbreaking children's book finds an entertaining way to teach kids and parents about roundabouts and road user safety.

Transportation education and advocacy group *Build The Era* is pleased to announce the publication of a new children's book: "Ronda Loves Roundabouts." The book, which features Build The Era's cartoon mascot and roundabout-come-to-life Ronda Bout and her pal, Bee, teaches readers about roundabout use and road user safety. It is also the first known children's book about roundabouts.

Author and transportation engineer Jonathan French, P.E. will be hitting the (virtual) road to discuss the book. The first stop on the tour is a [launch celebration](#) with Build The Era and invited guests on May 18th at 7:00 PM ET via Zoom. RSVP at [this link](#).

The members of Build The Era believe using Ronda is an effective method for children to learn at a young age about infrastructure — roundabouts in particular — and road user safety.

"Children learn about traffic signals before they know how to read," French states. The same should be true for roundabouts, because they save lives and make our communities a better place to live. In order for the traffic signal to become widely accepted in the early 20th century, children's entertainment was used. Build The Era hopes this book will hopefully be the start of



Download high-resolution cover art [here](#).

children’s entertainment being used for the acceptance and mass implementation of roundabouts in the United States during the 21st century,” adds French.

Using rhyme, humor, enticing illustrations, and a helping of Build The Era’s trademark whimsy, Ronda and Bee impart to families the how-tos of roundabout navigation and road user safety.

Quick Roundabout Facts



Carmel, Indiana has the most roundabouts in America with over 140



There are now approximately 10,000 roundabouts in the United States



A 2018 study by The Risk Institute at The Ohio State University found that roundabouts were the most effective road design to reduce severe crashes from distracted driving



The first roundabouts in the United States were built in the community of Summerlin in Las Vegas, Nevada from 1990 to 1991



In addition to emissions reduction, roundabouts are resilient to severe climate events because they don’t require power to function



Roundabouts help municipal budgets with maintenance costs, and save money for individual users by conserving fuel compared to costs incurred due to traffic signals

About roundabout safety: U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg was a proponent of the safer alternative to busy intersections during his days as mayor of South Bend, Ind. “We started doing roundabouts in South Bend – they take a little getting used to, but we also know that they reduce serious crashes, injuries and deaths,” said Buttigieg during a stop in Sandusky, Ohio, in August 2022 during a Midwest tour of projects funded by RAISE grants from the USDOT. These grants included \$24.5 million award for the Ohio DOT for the U.S. 6 Connectivity Corridor and Sandusky Bay Pathway. Funds are aimed at replacing dangerous intersections with roundabouts, among other improvements in Sandusky. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), intersections converted to roundabouts from stop signs or traffic signals have had a reduction in injury crashes by 72-80 percent and a reduction in all crashes by 35-47 percent.

About the author: Jonathan French is a licensed professional engineer in Maine who works as a transportation engineer at the Maine Department of Transportation, with more than twelve years of experience in roundabout design, guidance, and policy. Throughout his career he has been devoted to improving highway safety, resiliency, and cost-effectiveness through innovation. He is a co-founder and currently serves as a board member of Build The Era. Jonathan is also a member of the Institute of Transportation Engineers (ITE) and the ITE Roundabout Standing Committee.

About the illustrator: Liyin Yeo is a graphic designer and illustrator with more than twenty years of experience working with corporate clients, NGOs and individuals, both locally and internationally. Liyin has produced work for both traditional print and digital media, including branding, editorial design, packaging design, political satires, infographics, merch designs, and book illustrations, and is based in Malaysia. You can find Liyin’s work on Instagram @liyincreative.

All about Ronda: Ronda Bout is a transportation advocate with Build The Era who is passionate about safety, complete streets, climate justice, and especially roundabouts!

About Build The Era: Build The Era is a volunteer-powered education and advocacy organization focused on transportation as it relates to the United States Department of Transportation.

**For details or to arrange interview with the author, email BuildTheEra@gmail.com.
[Order a copy](#) of the book or [view sample pages](#) of the book.**