



EDWARD BROOKS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Testimony – Assembly Bill 451
Assembly Committee on Transportation
October 28, 2015

Chairman Ripp and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of Assembly Bill 451, the “cut large vehicles some slack in a roundabout” bill.

Like them or not, Wisconsin’s hundreds of roundabouts are here to stay so we better figure out how to maneuver through them safely.

Last summer I was contacted by the Safety Director for Skinner Transfer of Reedsburg. Skinner Transfer had a driver cited for lane deviation causing an accident within a roundabout. The accident occurred because an automobile attempted to pass the truck as it maneuvered through the roundabout. Maneuvering into and through a roundabout can be challenging enough in a regular size vehicle, now add 50 or more feet of length and it’s nearly impossible to stay in your lane. We looked at several options to make it less likely for a truck to be cited if they should happen to deviate from their lane in a roundabout.

AB 451 will allow a person operating a large vehicle within a roundabout to deviate from the lane in which they are travelling in order to navigate the roundabout. And, an operator of a small vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to the large vehicle. Under current law, a small vehicle means: automobile, motorcycle, moped, motor bicycle, or bicycle. AB 451 is strictly written for vehicles maneuvering within a roundabout. This bill does not allow for lane deviation on a regular roadway.

Thank you for hearing AB 451 today. I hope you will support passage of the bill.