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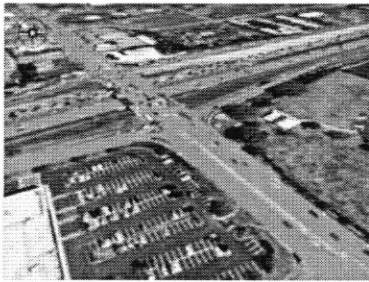
Business, Government

I-85/Pleasant Hill DDI Concept OK'd

Gwinnett Place CID granted \$450,000 for Satellite Blvd. streetscaping, pedestrian enhancements.

By [Faye Edmundson](#) | [Email the author](#) | 8:04am

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The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) officially approved a concept report for the proposed conversion of the Pleasant Hill Road bridge over I-85 to an innovative diverging-diamond interchange (DDI).

Approval of the concept plan is required to advance the project further with the Federal Highway Administration. Additional permitting and plan approvals will be sought this fall as right-of-acquisition continues in preparation for construction to begin in early 2012, according to a June 2 announcement by the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District, which has proposed the DDI to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion at the I-85 crossing.

Leo Wiener, chairman the Gwinnett CID, said the GDOT approval is welcome news signaling that the bridge replacement is closer to reality. "The CID's top priority is rebuilding this bridge to dramatically improve traffic flow and safety," Wiener said in the announcement. "We greatly appreciate the strong leadership and emphasis that Gwinnett County and Georgia transportation authorities have placed on the Pleasant Hill Road DDI. They recognize the importance of this project to the CID and our county's central business district."

The Gwinnett Place CID also was notified that the GDOT will be providing \$450,000 in 2011 Transportation Enhancement (TE) Grant funding. These funds will support the CID's efforts to complete streetscaping and other pedestrian enhancements on Satellite Boulevard from Pleasant Hill Road to the Gwinnett Transit Center.

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