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Metro's Busiest Traffic Areas May Get Some Help

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ATLANTA - Commuters in highly-congested areas will see something new in the next year. New traffic lane designs called diverging diamonds are planned for some clogged interstate overpasses.

Diverging diamonds hold the promise of low-cost help for traffic blockages.

Ashford-Dunwoody Road at Interstate-285 ranks as one of the worst bottlenecks in Metro Atlanta. Drivers dread it.

This intersection is slated to be reconfigured. The change will involve traffic which now turns left at the end of the Ashford-Dunwoody bridge to enter I-285 under a diverging diamond design.

The cars will be routed to the left lanes before crossing the bridge, allowing them to easily turn left onto the interstate.

Jill Goldberg of the state Department of Transportation says the department hopes to award a diverging diamond contract later in the year. Work could potentially begin early next year.

DOT officials said the only one other diverging diamond design that has been implemented in the U.S. is in Springfield, Missouri.

Many other diverging diamonds are planned and more are in the works for Metro Atlanta, including interchanges in Gwinnett and Cobb counties.

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