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WILLIAMS: A cheap way to fix some busy roads

Gwinnett County has historically employed distinctive solutions in meeting the needs of its thriving communities. Everything from our educational system to water treatment has gained national notoriety for high standards of excellence.

Reporter: By Mark Williams

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Our county continues to benefit from the progressive leadership of its community improvement districts and their privately supported efforts to revitalize, promote and enhance their respective portions of Gwinnett.

In keeping with our tradition of innovation, the Gwinnett Place CID is supporting the efforts of the Georgia Department of Transportation and Gwinnett County Department of Transportation to substantially improve our area's traffic patterns.

Gwinnett Place is one of two Gwinnett locations slated to become one of the first diverging-diamond interchanges operating in Georgia. There are five DDIs functioning throughout the United States, and Pleasant Hill Road and Jimmy Carter Boulevard are set to become the latest additions.

The DDI is truly a revolutionary system that allows drivers to cross over to the "opposite" side of the road as they access the interstate. Time Magazine and Popular Science have even dedicated some of their recent coverage to the importance of DDIs in the communities that have them.

Design and congestion relief aren't the DDI's only unique advantages. Because the new interchange uses the existing infrastructure of the Pleasant Hill Road bridge at Interstate 85, the DDI's construction time and dollars spent are dramatically less than building a new interstate crossing.

We want to invite all of our stakeholders and others interested in the Pleasant Hill Road improvement to join us for an open house session from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday at the Atlanta Marriott Gwinnett Place at 1775 Pleasant Hill Road in Duluth.

Please plan to be part of this special meeting and come to learn more about how we are making a change for the better. More information about the DDI and all other improvement projects are available at www.gwinnettplacecid.com.

Mark Williams is chairman of the Gwinnett Place CID Board of Directors.

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