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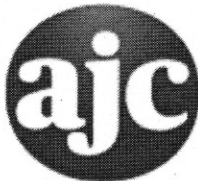
Monday, Nov. 19, 2012 | 8:47 a.m.

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The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Posted: 4:35 p.m. Friday, Nov. 16, 2012

Benefit of 'diamond' interchange in Dunwoody: fewer accidents

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By Pat Fox

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

As state and local dignitaries officially dedicated the state's first "diverging diamond" interchange Friday on Ashford Dunwoody Road at I-285 in Dunwoody, figures showed accidents at the interchange are down over the same period last year.

The three-year, \$5.5 million project opened to traffic in June and sits amid metro Atlanta's busiest business centers. Close to 55,000 vehicles a day pass through the interchange.

The new design channels north- and southbound traffic on Ashford Dunwoody Road into the left lanes of the overpass to allow unencumbered left turns onto I-285. Traffic is then diverted back to the right lanes as it leaves the overpass.

"I think it works well," said Dunwoody resident Anne Glenn, who uses the interchange regularly. "It allows traffic to move on Ashford Dunwoody without all the delays I used to see."

Fewer accidents are another benefit. Figures from the Dunwoody Police Department show accidents at Ashford Dunwoody Road at I-285 are down almost 30 percent since the new configuration was launched. Records show 28 accidents reported at the interchange from June 1 through Nov. 14 last year, while 20 accidents were reported at the site during the same period this year.

Friday's ceremony marked completion of signaled crosswalks and a protected sidewalk that runs between the four traffic lanes on the overpass.

