



## New design puts drivers on "wrong" side of the road

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Dunwoody, GA -- Construction started Saturday on Georgia's first Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) on Ashford-Dunwoody Road over I-285.

The new design is expected to reduce traffic delays during rush hours by up to 20 percent.

Once its completed, drivers on Ashford-Dunwoody Road will stop at the bridge over I-285, then cross into the left-hand lanes before making an easy left turn onto the interstate or crossing back to the right-hand side to stay on Ashford-Dunwoody.

The design calls for drivers to move to what they now consider the "wrong" side of the road.

The Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District has picked the same design to ease traffic congestion on bridges over I-85 at Pleasant Hill Road and Jimmy Carter Boulevard.

"It's time to think outside the box and do something revolutionary," said Joe Allen, the Gwinnett Place CID executive director.

Ashford-Dunwoody will be the first DDI in Georgia with a target date of September 2012.

The project will cost the Georgia Department of Transportation \$4.6 million.

A complete bridge rebuild would cost tens of millions more.

Transportation officials said the new design is safer since fewer left turns means fewer chances of a collision.

A traditional intersection has 26 conflict points compared to a DDI with 14 conflict points.

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