



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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Contact Joe Allen (678) 924-8171  
[jallen@gwinnettplacecid.com](mailto:jallen@gwinnettplacecid.com)



# Gwinnett County's First Diverging Diamond Interchange Receives Two Transportation Awards of Excellence

*GPCID "Proud of the results"*

(DULUTH)-- As the first eight-lane Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI) operational in the United States and the first DDI constructed in Gwinnett County, the new DDI at Pleasant Hill Road over I-85 has received two awards of excellence for design and engineering.

The Georgia Partnership for Transportation Quality (GPTQ) named the Gwinnett Place area DDI its winner in the Innovative Solutions Category in Preconstruction Design. This award recognizes innovation and emphasizes new design solutions to engineering problems with broad prospects for future application. The GPTQ found the design of the interchange embodied the ongoing engineering innovations required to address the transportation needs for Georgia.

The Pleasant Hill Road over I-85 DDI also was also recognized with the 2014 Georgia Engineering Excellence Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia. The DDI, designed by the URS Corporation and constructed by E.R. Snell Contractor, was one of five Georgia state finalists chosen and is eligible to compete for the American Council for Engineering Companies' Grand Award to be given in February 2014.

"The entire Gwinnett Place business community, the Georgia Department of Transportation (DOT) and Gwinnett County DOT have worked hard to make this major infrastructure improvement a reality. We are very pleased with the operational results that have improved traffic flow along Pleasant Hill Road and proud of everyone involved who made this DDI a success," Gwinnett Place CID Executive Director Joe Allen said.

"The Pleasant Hill Road over I-85 DDI has been a signature infrastructure project for the CID and is a symbol of the re-emergence of Gwinnett Place as the community's central business district. This could not be accomplished without the excellent partnership with Gwinnett County DOT, Georgia DOT, the State Road and Tollway Authority, Snell Contractor and URS Engineering."

The DDI opened June 9, 2013 and will be substantially complete by the end of the year, including streetscape improvements made to the approaches to the bridge.