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Posted: 3:00 a.m. Thursday, June 7, 2012

## Construction to begin this summer on next diverging diamond interchange



Sandra Parrish

### Related

By Sandra Parrish

After this week's opening of the new diverging diamond interchange on Ashford-Dunwoody Road, construction could begin later this summer on metro Atlanta's next DDI.

The Gwinnett County commission could award the construction project for the new interchange at Pleasant Hill Road and I-85 at its meeting later this month.

The project will be funded through Gwinnett's special local option sales tax as well as the Gwinnett Place Community Improvement District.

"Basically we are looking to shift the traffic to the opposite side of the roadway to avoid congestion and traffic delays," says CID Executive Director Joe Allen.

He tells WSB's Sandra Parrish surveys conducted by the CID have shown the number one reason people are not coming back to shop in the area is because of traffic congestion.

Allen says with the new DDI and other improvements along Pleasant Hill Road, he's hoping both businesses and shoppers will return to the area.

"Not only will it move traffic more efficiently, but what we're planning as far as the enhancements to the bridge will really be a signature piece of infrastructure that will really symbolize the reemergence of Gwinnett Place as Gwinnett's central business district," he says.

Allen expects construction to begin later this summer and run through mid-November when crews will take a break for the holiday shopping season. He says after construction resumes in January, it should wrap up by late spring.

Another DDI is also planned for Jimmy Carter Boulevard and I-85.

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