



Diverging-diamond conversion scheduled for early June

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DULUTH -- Drivers are just weeks away from shifting to the other side of

the road to relieve traffic on Pleasant Hill Road.

Officials have scheduled the conversion of the road's bridge over Interstate 85 for early June, where a new diverging diamond configuration is in the works.

To make the change, the bridge will be closed at 9 p.m. Friday, June 7, weather and conditions permitting. The weekend work will be complete by 5 a.m. Monday, June 10.

"We ask that drivers in this area be especially cautious and alert during construction," said Transportation Director Kim Conroy. "We understand this is an inconvenience, so Gwinnett DOT staff will closely monitor traffic flow and signals during the crossover weekend to help keep traffic moving."

The design is the first in Gwinnett but the second in Georgia, after a bridge was converted last year at Ashford-Dunwoody Road at Interstate 285. Another conversion at Jimmy Carter Boulevard and I-85 is in the works and could come later this year, officials said.

The shift to the opposite side of the road is intended to make turns onto the interstate free flowing to improve the flow of traffic across the bridge.

"The Gwinnett Place business community is thrilled about this investment in our area," said Joe Allen, the director of the area's community improvement district, which is funding aesthetic upgrades as part of the project. "The end result of closing the Pleasant Hill Road bridge for a weekend will be improved mobility in this area."

During the weekend of June 7-10, the bridge will be closed to all through-traffic, although drivers will be able to turn right on and off of the interstate.

Officials suggested drivers and pedestrians should take the planned detour: Pleasant Hill Road to Satellite Boulevard to Steve Reynolds Boulevard to Shackleford Road to Pleasant Hill Road and the reverse. Pedestrian traffic should continue to use the detour route for at least one month following crossover during the construction of pedestrian walkways.

The work will continue through the summer on the center median and pedestrian facilities, while crews will finalize the signals, interchange lighting