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Gwinnett's "diverging diamond" gets first rush hour test

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By Jay Black and Sandra Parrish

DULUTH — Gwinnett's "diverging diamond" gets first rush hour test

It has been one of the most packed stretches of pavement in Gwinnett County for years.

Pleasant Hill Road at I-85.

But hopefully that is a thing of the past now that the Georgia Department of Transportation has finished work on its "diverging diamond" interchange.

You might remember the DDI from its debut in metro Atlanta last year at Ashford-Dunwoody Road. It seems to have made

the drive to Perimeter mall a little easier. Now the DOT hopes it will do the same for Gwinnett Place Mall.

Traffic will "crossover" to the opposite side of the bridge at Pleasant Hill Road at I-85 for motorists either turning left onto the interstate or going straight on the roadway.

"Before motorists get to the bridge they'll be diverted into the left-hand lane so that when they approach that left turn... they're already in that lane and just make a free-flow movement," says Kim Conroy, director of the Gwinnett Transportation Department.

He says barrels and signage as well as off-duty police officers will be on hand to make sure of an easy transition.

Even though traffic will crossover beginning Monday, construction will continue on the interchange through September when the project is expected to be completed.

A second diverging diamond for Gwinnett is also planned for Jimmy Carter Boulevard.

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