



Diverging Diamond Interchange Concept

Moreland Altobelli (MA) is proud to have conceived and designed the first diverging diamond interchange (DDI) to be constructed in Georgia. This interchange will reconfigure Ashford Dunwoody Road and I-285 near Perimeter Mall to relieve heavy rush-hour traffic. The design for this project was made possible through funding by the Perimeter Community Improvement Districts (PCIDs). Construction will be funded by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). MA and the PCIDs actively coordinated with GDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), which allowed the project to move from idea through concept and to construction in record time.

Our engineers and planners ensured that the new interchange was well designed by visiting, at the time, the only operational DDI in the U.S. in Springfield, Missouri. Our close interaction with Missouri Department of Transportation engineers, finding out their "lessons learned," enabled us to push forward with the new design efficiently. Armed with that knowledge, MA implemented a DDI for Ashford Dunwoody that will speed drivers' entry and exit from the area.

The DDI improves the interchange by removing the left turn from the traffic signals. Instead of stopping and waiting for the left-turn light, drivers cross over to the left side of the road and make free left turns onto the interstate ramps. For a visual rendering of the diverging diamond traffic flow at the I-285 and Ashford Dunwoody Road interchange, [click here](#). The free left turns will reduce driver delay by 15% in the afternoon rush hour. The elimination of the left turn at the traffic signal also improves safety by removing the most dangerous type of intersection collisions: the angle and "t-bone" crashes.

"The PCIDs are proud of taking an aggressive step to hire Moreland Altobelli to find a new, innovative concept for the 40-year-old Ashford Dunwoody and I-285 Interchange, considered one of the most congested in Georgia," said Yvonne Williams, president and chief

executive officer. *"We are pleased that GDOT views the DDI as a model now for congested interchanges throughout the state."*

"Improvement of traffic flow through this interchange is critical to the busy Perimeter area's economy," Williams said. *"And this economic health is important not only to our businesses, but also to local and state governments that depend on the tax revenues generated in the Perimeter area,"* she noted.

The contract for construction was awarded to E.R. Snell Construction in September 2011 and construction will be underway soon. The interchange will be operating in the new configuration by summer of 2012. MA is excited to have a role in this innovative project and is appreciative to the PCIDs for the opportunity.



Diverging Diamond Interchange completed project

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am truly excited about this project and how it came about. Our client, the PCIDs, looked to MA to provide an economical and innovative solution that would improve the traffic flow along Ashford Dunwoody Road at I-285. Through the efforts of the MA engineers, the commitment of the PCIDs, and the cooperation of the GDOT and the FHWA - Georgia Division, this out-of-the-box project was planned, designed, and let to construction in record time. I look forward to seeing the first operational DDI in this state opened to traffic the summer of 2012.

Buddy Gratton, PE – President
Moreland Altobelli Associates, Inc.