



**DELAWARE**

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **Traffic Pattern Activated for the New Diverging Diamond Interchange at State Route 1 and Route 72**

*Dover* – The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) announces that as part of the State Route 1 Widening Program the new Diverging Diamond Interchange at State Route 1 and Route 72 will be ready to receive traffic under its new configuration, Friday evening Nov. 18, after rush hour is concluded. Although the project area will remain an active work zone, the new traffic lanes are being activated to allow other construction activity to take place at the site.

“DelDOT is eager to open the first diverging diamond interchange in Delaware,” said DelDOT Secretary Jennifer Cohan. “The diverging diamond design presents drivers with fewer points of conflict than traditional interchanges creating a safer environment for local and through traffic. The innovative design also saves taxpayers money by improving traffic flow over the existing bridge without the need to widen or replace the current structure. This project is another example DelDOT’s effort to use innovative and efficient solutions to improve our state’s transportation infrastructure.”

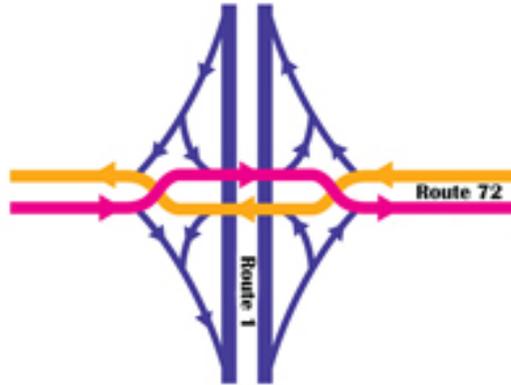
Listed by Popular Science magazine as a top traffic engineering innovation, the diverging diamond interchange (DDI) is unusual in that it requires traffic on a freeway overpass to briefly drive on the opposite side of the road to make uninterrupted left turns. There is a significant improvement in safety, since no long turns must clear opposing traffic and all movements are discrete, controlled by traffic signals. The design has been successfully applied in other states and is recognized as a cost-effective method of achieving enhanced traffic flow and safety without widening an existing overpass.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has awarded DelDOT an Accelerated Innovation Deployment (AID) Demonstration grant of \$1 million which provides funding as an incentive for eligible applicants to accelerate the implementation and adoption of innovation in highway transportation.

### **SAFETY BENEFITS OF THE DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE:**

- Fewer conflict points (14 for DDI, 26 for conventional)
- Conflict points spread out throughout interchange
- Better sight distance at turns

- Virtually no driver confusion (FHWA study and new DDI observations in Springfield, MO)
- Traffic calming features when desired
- Wrong way entry to ramps extremely difficult
- Pedestrian crossings are shorter



A video explaining the Diverging Diamond can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7n9RGr7Cg-4>

For further information visit the project website at: <http://SR1.deldot.gov>.

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