The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) anticipates construction to begin summer of 2018 on a new interchange at I-10 and SR-181 in Baldwin County, Alabama. The new interchange, known as the Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI), will be the first one in Alabama. The DDI is designed to improve traffic flow efficiency and safety with fewer traffic lights and safer entry and exit lanes to and from I-10. The improved traffic flow with fewer conflict points is proven to reduce accidents and increase safety of motorists.

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The video of “How to Navigate a DDI” and further project information is found on: http://rp.dot.state.al.us/I10_SR181/@ALDOTMobileArea
A DDI moves more traffic and reduces congestion better than a conventional interchange. Dangerous left-hand turns across free-flowing traffic are eliminated on exits from SR-181 onto I-10 resulting in more efficient traffic flow and fewer accidents.

- Efficiency of the interchange is improved as a DDI eliminates signal phases and allows for un-signalized left turn movements, thus increasing capacity and efficiency (i.e. the volume of vehicles moving through the interchange).
- The DDI is a great option where high volumes of left turns at the signalized intersections occur, as is the case with this interchange.
- DDIs have fewer conflict points. While there are 26 possible points of conflict in a conventional interchange, there are only 14 in a DDI and they are spread throughout the interchange, rather than concentrated in a few dangerous spots.
- DDIs provide better sight distance at turns. Since the DDI eliminates cross-traffic turns, drivers have better visibility as they merge onto and off of the highway.

DDIs result in fewer crashes. Data on existing DDIs indicates a 60 percent reduction of collisions over conventional interchanges. Crashes that may occur are generally of lower severity than crashes observed in conventional interchanges.

**How to navigate the Diverging Diamond Interchange:**

Motorists on SR-181 will proceed through the first traffic signal and follow their lane to the opposite side of the road. Traffic accessing I-10 will turn left onto the ramp. Through traffic will continue to the second traffic signal and follow their lane back to the right side of the road. Traffic on I-10 will access existing ramps to enter SR-181.