

## A Diverging Diamond Interchange

A Diverging Diamond Interchange allows two directions of traffic to temporarily cross to the left side of the road. A DDI moves high volumes of traffic through an intersection without increasing the number of lanes. This movement provides easier access to a busy divided highway.



Traffic crisscrosses at either end of the bridge, so instead of making hard left turns, drivers veer to the left for access.

## Benefits

A DDI reduces congestion by allowing traffic to keep moving through an intersection. It also improves safety by allowing free flowing turns when entering or exiting the roadway, eliminating left turns against oncoming traffic and reducing the number of traffic signal phases.

The DDI provides better sight distance at turns and fewer chances to conflict with other vehicles, which results in fewer crashes.

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## Did you know?

*The DDI roadway design originated in France and may reduce traffic delays up to 60 percent!*

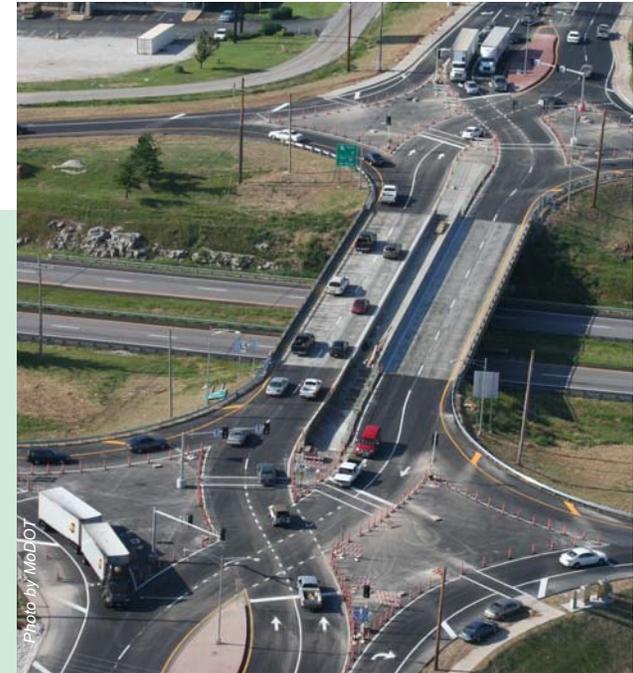
For more information go onto the web at  
[mndot.gov/d3/hwy15ddi/](http://mndot.gov/d3/hwy15ddi/)



Photos are by the Missouri Department of Transportation



# Diverging Diamond Interchange



**2012-2013 Construction Seasons**

**Minnesota Highway 15  
Stearns County Road 120**

**Sartell/St. Cloud**

## Coming to Minnesota

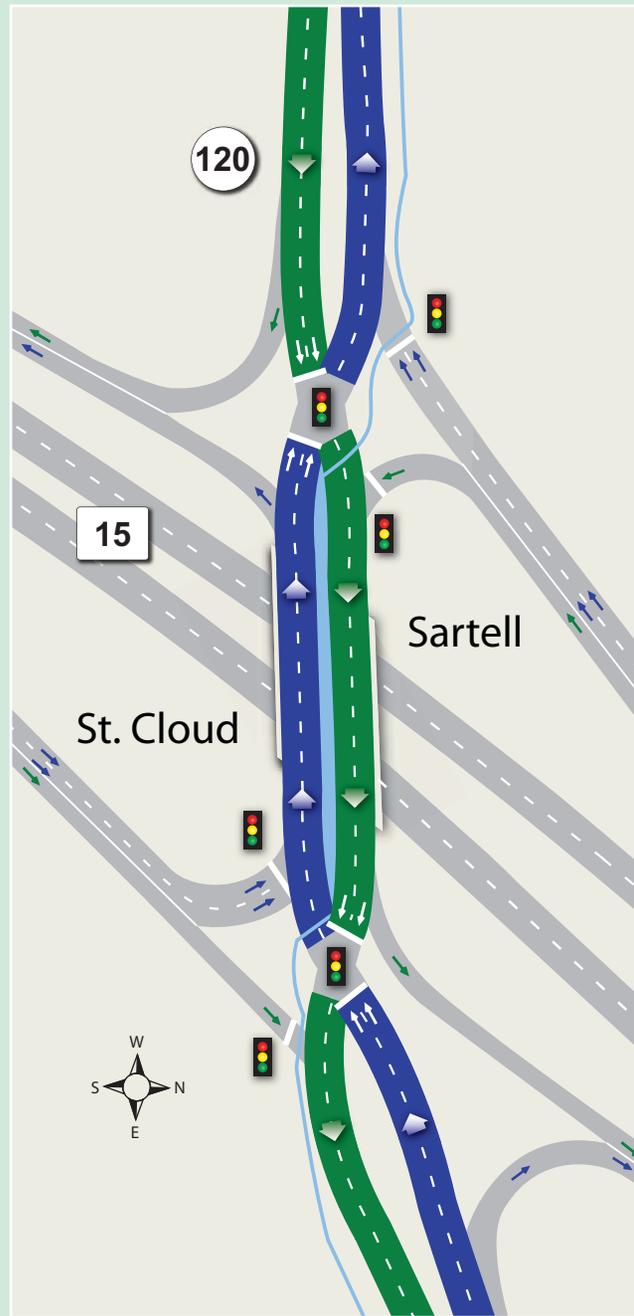
In 2012/2013, one of Minnesota's first Diverging Diamond Interchanges (DDI) will be constructed at State Highway 15 and Stearns County Road 120 in the cities of Sartell and St. Cloud.

The \$17.5 million project is being built in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), Stearns County and the cities of Sartell and St. Cloud.

The area around this intersection has been rapidly developing over the past few years. New healthcare facilities and retail businesses significantly increased the amount of traffic. The increase in traffic and related safety and mobility concerns led to the development of the interchange project.



*Pedestrians cross the bridge using a center island.*



■ Westbound ■ Eastbound ■ Pedestrian

## Maneuvering a Diverging Diamond Interchange

### Motorists

If you look at an aerial picture of a DDI, you may think it could be a challenge driving through the intersection. But in reality, a DDI has pavement markings and traffic signals just like any intersection.

When driving a DDI, motorists proceed through a traffic signal at the entrance to the interchange, and simply follow their lane to the opposite side of the roadway. Motorists needing to access the highway turn left at the on ramp without having to stop or wait for oncoming traffic to pass. Through traffic proceeds to a second traffic signal and follows their lane back to the right side of the road.

Pavement markings, signs and signals direct motorists through the intersections.

### Pedestrians

Pedestrians are directed to a center pedestrian island in the middle of the bridge. This walkway is protected from vehicle traffic with concrete barriers. Pedestrians cross only one direction of traffic and cross fewer lanes.

