



**See the  
Diverging Diamond  
Interchange  
in Action**



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***Diverging  
Diamond  
Interchange***

# ***Diverging Diamond Interchange***

## **How it Works!**

**Welcome to Springfield**, home of Cashew Chicken, the Bass Pro Shops World Headquarters and the first Diverging Diamond Interchanges in the Western Hemisphere!

### **What is a Diverging Diamond Interchange?**

The Diverging Diamond Interchange is a design used where a major thoroughfare and a freeway intersect and many drivers wish to make a left turn onto the freeway.

The main feature of a Diverging Diamond Interchange involves something that seems unsettling at first because it moves traffic to the "left" side of the thoroughfare.

But that shift is made intuitive -- and safe -- because the movement is controlled at traffic signals and is guided by curved concrete islands, striping and signs. You will find several of these interchanges in Springfield, also in Branson and Joplin, St. Louis, elsewhere in Missouri and in many other states.

### **How do you drive a Diverging Diamond Interchange?**

Approaching the interchange, the road will start to bend toward the left and you will come up to a traffic signal. Cars and trucks coming from the other direction will be on your right.

- When the signal turns green for you, oncoming traffic on your right will stop and you will move forward, crossing over to the left side of the road. A concrete median will separate you from the opposing lanes.
- As you proceed on the left side of the road, you will be able to make a "free" left turn onto the freeway on-ramp without having to face oncoming traffic and without having to stop.
- If you continue going straight, you can keep moving because you are not blocked by cars and trucks waiting to make a left onto the freeway. Then you can then cross back to the right side of the road at the next traffic signal.

Obey the traffic signals. Follow the curved contours of the concrete islands. Stay in the lanes. Pay attention to the signs.

### **What does a Diverging Diamond Interchange Accomplish?**

- It keeps straight-ahead and left-turning traffic moving.
- It virtually eliminates serious right-angle crashes.
- All types of crashes are reduced by at least 50 percent.
- It's easy to follow. It flows naturally.

