

ASCE

American Society
of Civil Engineers



ASCE Illinois Section

News

Vol. 48, No. 6
July/August 2007

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Diverging Diamond Interchanges

By Smith Siromaskul, P.E., Mobility Coordinator, Oregon Bridge Delivery Partners

Introduction

As the nation's transportation system ages, funding sources decline, and the area surrounding existing facilities becomes increasingly developed, agencies across the country are searching for new, cost effective ways to handle forecasted increases in traffic, or to improve existing poorly performing locations. Diverging diamond interchanges (DDIs) have recently been introduced in North America as a potential solution in a number of different locations across the United States and Canada. This article will introduce the concept of a DDI and list some of the potential advantages associated with it.

The Concept

Diverging diamond interchanges are an unusual variant of the more traditional standard diamond interchange. Like the standard diamond interchange, the DDI has two ramp terminals, both of which are typically signalized in higher volume locations. In the DDI, the through lanes on the crossroad intersect each other at each ramp terminal and are "flipped" in the middle of the interchange. That is to say that crossroad through traffic drives on the left side of oncoming traffic in the middle of the interchange. This design quirk permits the DDI's biggest advantage to come in to play: left turns from the crossroad do not conflict with oncoming traffic.

Diverging diamond interchanges (DDIs) have recently been introduced in North America as a potential solution in a number of different locations across the United States and Canada.

All of the turning movements are removed from the signalized intersections allowing for the two signals to be controlled with two simple phases. No turning phases are required.

In terms of traffic operations, the two-phase signals on each side of the interchange yield another major advantage: reduced lost time. Time is lost in yellow and all red time. More time is lost in the startup time that it takes for the first vehicle to react to the green light. Signals at a standard diamond interchange are typically interconnected involving 4 or more phases for proper operation. The reduction in the number of phases required by the DDI reduces the amount of green time that is lost. This, in turn, also allows the cycle lengths of the signals to be reduced. What all these

(continued on page 6)

President's Notes

Joe Johnson, P.E., M. ASCE



While reviewing my calendar for the second half of 2007 I came across two important reminders. The first was a reminder to cast my ballot in the current ASCE election. ASCE is accepting ballots for national positions including President-Elect, Director-at-Large, and Regional Governors through

August 14. Check your e-mail for a link to your electronic ballot, or visit the ASCE website, www.asce.org to vote online.

In particular, I want to strongly encourage all of the members of the Illinois Section to vote in support of our nominee for Region 3 Governor, Don Wittmer. As many of you know, Don has worked tirelessly at both the Section and National level to promote ASCE and engineering in general. In addition to serving as a long-time Younger Member Group officer and Section Board Member, Don has been instrumental in many of the Section's major accomplishments, serving as a member of the 2006 Annual Conference Steering Committee, leading the effort to create and publish our outstanding 150th Anniversary Book, and coordinating our support of the Future Cities Program. Please make a point to access your electronic ballot and show your support for Don as an

outstanding leader and representative of the Illinois Section.

Secondly, I recently came across a reminder that I still need to earn a few more professional development hours (PDH's) for my upcoming PE license renewal. For those of us who maintain an Illinois PE license, or a license in many other states, this process of logging PDH's has become part of the routine license renewal process. Yet, based on my discussions with area engineers, the degree to which individuals use continuing education opportunities to increase their knowledge varies widely. While many engineers work hard to identify and take part in high value meetings, presentations and courses that add significantly to their understanding of the state-of-the-practice in their respective discipline, others view the PDH requirement as simply another item to be checked off their renewal list. There are a tremendous number of opportunities to earn

ASCE Illinois Section

News

ILLINOIS SECTION NEWSLETTER

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PDH's. Our own technical groups offer a wide range of presentations and short-courses that deal with current, local issues. Other local organizations including ISPE, AWWA, APWA, IWEA and others do the same. In addition, ASCE and many other organizations offer formal short-courses here in Chicago and at locations throughout the country. Information regarding the professional development requirements for Professional Engineers in Illinois can be found at the web site for the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation – Division of Professional Regulation. Specific rules are located at: <http://www.ilga.gov/>

[commission/jcar/admincode/068/068013800003250R.html](http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/068/068013800003250R.html)

Lessons learned from experience are incredibly valuable. However, in our rapidly changing world, it is important that we as professionals remain committed to a program of life-long learning, including meaningful continuing education. As we each consider our plans for meeting our license renewal requirements, let's give some thought to how we can make meeting these requirements an opportunity for broadening our knowledge and/or strengthening our skills in some area of our practice. The people that we serve, whether they represent municipi-

However, in our rapidly changing world, it is important that we as professionals remain committed to a program of life-long learning, including meaningful continuing education.

palities, government agencies, private businesses, or the general public, expect that we will draw upon a strong and current knowledge of engineering to meet their needs. Let's do our best to meet and exceed their expectations.

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Help Lead the Leaders of Tomorrow...Today

A Celebration of Education By Jill Ramos, CH2M HILL

Through the event, Boy Scout Engineering Merit Badge Day, we were able to help kids realize an education beyond high school and learn more about a profession that is so intertwined into our daily activities. Objects such as cell-phones, vehicles, and the roads we drive on are items that would not be feasible if it weren't for engineers. On President's Day, February 19, 2007, about 100 Boy Scouts received one of the most difficult and least attained merit badge assigned by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Within two events (2006 and 2007), about 200 Boy Scouts total have received their Engineering Merit Badge through the gracious help of all of the engineers who helped make it happen.

Many Boy Scouts have tried to earn the Engineering Merit Badge, but it

has taken them months, even years, to complete the requirements for this badge. Sadly, some scouts never do complete it due to its lengthy requirements. This program is devised to allow the Boy Scouts to complete the Engineering Merit Badge requirements within one day, with the exception of some preparation ahead of time.

In the past, several Boy Scouts were unable to attend certain occasions due to the cost of the event. The vision for this event is to allow the Boy Scouts to attend the event because of their willingness to do so, not because their available funds would permit them to. With the extraordinary help of our volunteers, professional engineers and students, and the generous donations of engineering firms (CH2M HILL, Christopher B. Burke Engineering Ltd., and MWH Americas), societies

(ASCE Transportation Group, ASCE Environmental Engineering and Water Resources Group, ASCE – UIC Student Chapter, the Engineering Council, and the Veterans in Engineering), and the UIC College of Engineering, we were able to provide this program free of charge to everyone. Engineering paper, folders, writing utensils, banners, food, beverages, and other equipments were all made available due to the wonderful help we received.

This event would not have been feasible if it weren't for all of you, including the parents and troop leaders who assisted in the transportation and group activities. After the event, I hope that we, engineers, have helped trigger their minds about continuing education and tackling on any career and goals that they set their mind to. One child, who was extremely interested in the deep tunnel project, just happened to meet an engineer at the event who is working on the project. The Boy Scout was so excited and intrigued by the topic, he was able to get the engineer's business card so that he may be able to obtain more information on the matter after the event.

A mother expressed her gratitude, hoping that exposure to an event such as this will allow a future career to be more tangible to the Boy Scouts. As a result of this event, they have a better understanding that they need to develop a good foundation now in order to enable them to achieve their future goals. Because of all of you, we are able to help lead the leaders of tomorrow...today. **ASCE**

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With funding from the Illinois Section of ASCE, **IIT Students** help design a sustainable water distribution system in Pignon, Haiti.



With funding help from the Illinois Section of ASCE, **Northwestern University Students** visited the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge (under construction), the Cable Car Museum, and the US Army Corps of Engineers hydraulic model of the bay.



Thank you from the ASCE Illinois Section for a successful 13th Annual Golf Outing that raised nearly \$8,000 to benefit the Minority Affairs Committee student scholarships to Engineering Camp at Notre Dame.

Left to Right: Woody Siddall, Bob Gorski, Lou Arrigoni, Abdul Khan, Charles Mikell, Joe Johnson



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Diverging Diamond Interchanges

(continued from page 1)

improvements amount to is a substantial increase in the capacity of the facility and a significant reduction in the delay for vehicles using the facility.

Culture Shock

The one component most people remember from their first exposure to the DDI concept is the idea of driving on the “wrong side” of the road. In many cases, this has led to much skepticism and anxiety over the potential for driver confusion. While a number of lengthy articles may be devoted to this topic alone, it is important to note that the DDI, while it seems like a completely foreign concept, has many shared concepts with traditional designs. Most of all, it returns to the fundamentals of limiting collision possibilities. Many items used for more “typical” designs such as the MUTCD and other geometric standards can be used to help mitigate the potential for driver confusion.

The one component most people remember from their first exposure to the DDI concept is the idea of driving on the “wrong side” of the road.

The first DDI proposed in the US is located in Missouri at the I-435 and Front Street interchange on the east side of Kansas City. In the development process for this proposed DDI, The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) developed a three-dimensional model and placed people in driving simulators to test various applications of signing, striping, signal placement, and other visual cues, to mitigate concerns over driver confusion. From a designer’s perspective, the intent is to make the driver feel as if they

are on a one way street intersecting another one way street.

Diverging Diamond Advantages

The diverging diamond interchange offers a number of advantages over the standard diamond interchange ranging from operations to safety. From an operations standpoint, DDIs generally offer much more capacity using fewer lanes when exchanging significant volumes of traffic between the crossroad and the ramps. Preliminary analysis has shown that the higher the exchange traffic, the greater the relative increase in capacity of a DDI over a standard diamond interchange. Additionally, since the DDI utilizes two-phase signals, the amount of lost time due to phase changes is greatly reduced. Combined with the shorter cycle length, the DDI offers a significant improvement in operations from a delay perspective as well.



This figure, developed by the Missouri Department of Transportation, is the engineering drawing showing the proposed DDI at the I-435 and Front Street interchange on the east side of Kansas City. The traffic movements have been shaded in to more clearly show the opposing traffic movements.



This screenshot of the FHWA simulation shows the driver's view approaching one of the traffic signals in the DDI. Note the placement of glare shields that block the view of oncoming headlights. Also note that the geometric design of the approach is meant to guide the driver to exactly where the driver should be, minimizing the possibility of a vehicle turning into oncoming lanes.

Perhaps the greatest potential advantage of the DDI involves safety. Potential safety differences can be examined by comparing conflict points. According to the FHWA publication *Signalized Intersections: Informational Guide* (Publication No. FHWA-HRT-04-091), conflict points are broken into three general categories: diverging, merging, and crossing. Of these three, crossing conflict points have the potential to be the most hazardous. A standard diamond interchange has a total of 26 conflict points at the ramp terminals, of which 10 are crossing conflict points. The layout of the diverging diamond interchange, particularly the manner in which turns are handled, reduces the total number of conflict points

to 14. Most importantly, the number of crossing conflict points is reduced to 2.

Conclusion

The diverging diamond interchange is a valid concept that should be included as a viable option that is studied when developing potential interchange improvements. It should not, however, be considered as a panacea. There have not been enough studies to determine with certainty when or where it should or should not be used. It appears, however, that used with judgment and in the right circumstances, the DDI can provide a substantial improvement in capacity, operations, and safety, while keeping costs reasonable. **ASCE**

The diverging diamond interchange is a valid concept that should be included as a viable option that is studied when developing potential interchange improvements. It should not, however, be considered as a panacea.

*Written By:
Smith Siromaskul, P.E.
HDR Engineering, Inc.*



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Section Activities

Minority Affairs Committee

Monthly Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 3
Time: 5:30 pm
Place: 35 East Wacker Drive
Suite 1000
Chicago, IL

Agenda items:

- Golf Outing – Thursday, May 24, 2007
- Introduction to Engineering camp Scholarship (6 students, 6 high schools)
- Annual Tony Mays Pizza Dinner
- Expanding network of high school contacts to disseminate information regarding summer programs and scholarships
- Contact with Chicago Public Schools external partnerships officer
- Revisiting holding a seminar for MBE/DBE programs.

Contact Tim Scully Granzeier for more information: 312-263-6703 (ext 4109) or tim.scully-granzeier@arcadis-us.com.

Environmental Engineering & Water Resources Group

Group Social Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 10
Time: 5:30 pm
Place: TBD

Risk-Based Corrective Action for Chemical Releases 2-Day Seminar

Date: July 11 and 12
Time: 8:30 am to 5:00 pm
Place: 35 East Wacker Drive, 21st Floor
Chicago, IL 60601
RSVP: Tim Scully Granzeier
(312) 263-6703 ext. 4109
Registration open until July 3, 2007

Monthly Group Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 14
Time: 5:30 pm
Place: MWH
175 West Jackson Blvd., Suite 1900
Chicago, IL 60604
312-831-3000
Use the elevator banks on the
Van Buren side of the building.

Younger Member Group

Monthly Happy Hour

Date: Thursday, July 5
Time: 5:30 pm
Place: TBA
RSVP: James Wonneberg
JWonneberg@ekmail.com
(312) 424-5446

Cubs Outing

Date: Monday, August 20
Time: 1:20 pm
Chicago Cubs vs. St. Louis Cardinals
Tickets are Sold Out

Urban Planning & Development Group Monthly Meeting

Monthly Group Meeting

Date: Thursday, August 9
Time: 6:00pm
Place: Chandler's Chophouse
401 N. Roselle Road
Schaumburg, IL 60194
(847) 885-9009

Master of Project Management Program

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For more information about the MPM Program or to schedule an appointment, contact Professor Raymond J. Krizek, Program Director:
847-491-4040, rjkrizek@northwestern.edu
2145 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Illinois 60208-3109
<http://mpm.northwestern.edu>



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Me, Myself and Infrastructure

Me, Myself and Infrastructure: Private Lives and Public Works in America, will be open from August 8 through November 16, 2007 at the Chicago Architecture Foundation. The exhibition encourages visitors to explore environments including the road that leads to Naperville, a New York coffee shop, an intersection in Atlanta, and an office cubicle in Silicon Valley. Audiences will learn how their decisions determine the health of their neighborhoods and the quality of their lives.

Me, Myself and Infrastructure is a consumer's-eye view of the technological networks that keep society connected and that define modern life. Through the exhibition and public programs, *Me, Myself and Infrastructure* asks questions and challenges visitors to examine the systems that support their lives.

Join the Chicago Architecture Foundation for the free opening reception on August 8th.

Join the Chicago Architecture Foundation for the free opening reception on August 8th. Visit www.architecture.org for details. This exhibition appears thanks to the generous support of the American Society of Civil Engineers Foundation.



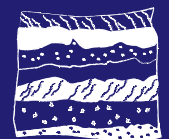
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Illinois Section News & Secretary Report

M A Y 2 0 0 7

In an effort to inform Illinois Section members of the discussions at the monthly Board meetings, the Section Secretary contributes this monthly article to the newsletter. Any questions or comments on the Board activities are welcome and can be sent to the Section office at the address shown on Page 2.

■ Treasurer's Report

▲ No treasurers report was presented

■ Group Reports

▲ Each Section Group reported on their past month's activities and future group meetings as noted in the Section Activities portion of the newsletter. Highlights of the Group's activities are as follows:

▲ Geotechnical Group: Chair Wysockey presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the group. The group will take the summer off and not meet again until September. President Johnson reminded the group to choose new officers in September.

▲ Structural Group: Director Becq-Giraudon presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the group. The group requested access to the ISASCE ftp site, Secretary Gorski suggested and ASCE E Room and to contact Transportation Group Chair Luke. The group had 114 attend the lecture series. The group meetings are scheduled for the week prior to the board meetings

▲ Environmental Engineering & Water Resources Group: Chair Baldauf presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the group.

▲ Urban Planning & Development Group: Chair Bono presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the group.

▲ Transportation Group: Chair Luke presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the group. President Johnson complimented the group on their success with the IDOT training courses. Chair Luke mentioned that an E Room had been created for the group using National resources. Other groups interested should contact Group Secretary Panguluri at Srikanth.Panguluri@CH2M.com

▲ Younger Member Group: No report presented.

■ Committee Reports

▲ Communications Committee: Secretary Gorski delivered the report. A DRAFT of the website was presented and comments were requested to be due Friday, May 18th. The site will be revised and presented at the June board meeting and go live after the meeting.

▲ Minority Affairs Committee: Chair Granzeier presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the group. The golf outing was emphasized to the technical group to participate again.

▲ Public Affairs Committee: Chair Ungeran presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the committee. Also discussed was the meeting with Kim Robinson, ISPE and opportunities to collaborate related to government relations and enable our members to become more aware of activities in Springfield.

▲ Membership Committee: Chair King presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the committee. Feedback is encouraged, please contact at cking@reltd.com. Chair King will work with the website committee to include a survey on the website to determine what they are looking for out of their membership. Volunteer are needed to support the committees efforts contact Chair King to help.

■ Old Business

▲ Website Update Template – Secretary Gorski presented the template and requested comments by May 18, these will be incorporated and the site presented again at the June board meeting and goes live afterwards.

▲ Distribution of 150th Anniversary Books – Assistant Newsletter Editor Morand continue to work with Chair Ungeran to distribute the books to legislatures and schools.

▲ 2007 Special Projects Follow-up

- Joint Engineering Facility – Director Ungeran mentioned that this initiative is on hold until other matters are addressed.
- Section Outreach beyond Chicago – President Johnson continues this effort.
- Part-time Public Relations Effort – Director Walczynski had no update.

■ New Business

▲ 2007 Annual Dinner Update – Director King discussed that Steve Cochran has been contacted to be the emcee again and a key note speaker related to the Olympics is being sought. A theme will be discussed with President elect Whitlock. The date of the dinner is Wednesday, October 24th.

▲ 2007 Awards Nominations – Secretary Gorski mentioned that the Transportation group has a slate of nominations. These will be forwarded to the nominations committee: President elect Whitlock kwhitlock@cbbel.com and Past President Khan abdul.khan@earthtech.com

▲ 2007 Headquarters Orientation – President Johnson will hold a spot for the incoming treasurer to attend this at National.

▲ Section Members serving on national committees – President Johnson would like these members to interact with the board/section; a list of members will be sent to the board.

▲ Me, Myself and Infrastructure: Private Lives and Public Works in America – President Johnson found out this exhibit <http://www.asce.org/150/infrastructure/> created for the 150th anniversary will be coming to Chicago in August or September. A location to set it up is needed along with members to assist are being sought. The exhibit will be shown at the Chicago Architecture Foundation, Greg Dreicer, Vice President of Exhibits and Programs <http://www.architecture.org/images/media/pdf/Dreicer.pdf> will be invited to the June board meeting.

▲ 2007 ASCE Region 3 Practitioner Advisor of the Year Award – President Johnson received a letter from National recognizing Dan Hogan the ASCE NU Chapter Practitioner Advisor (Attachment 10) Mr. Hogan was present at the April board meeting with ASCE NU Chapter member Megan Mann presenting the Chapters trip to San Francisco. President Johnson will recognize the award in the July/August Newsletter.

**By Robert Gorski, Secretary/Abdul Khan,
Past President**
Robert.gorski@hdrinc.com

Illinois Section News & Secretary Report

J U N E 2 0 0 7

In an effort to inform Illinois Section members of the discussions at the monthly Board meetings, the Section Secretary contributes this monthly article to the newsletter. Any questions or comments on the Board activities are welcome and can be sent to the Section office at the address shown on Page 2.

■ *Treasurer's Report*

▲ Treasurer Moore distributed the Treasurer's Monthly Report and Income Statement. The report was approved with revision to be made for duplicate entry of golf outing check. Treasurer Moore will provide Secretary Gorski with an updated copy of the report for distribution with the minutes.

■ *Group Reports*

▲ Each Section Group reported on their past month's activities and future group meetings as noted in the Section Activities portion of the newsletter. Highlights of the Group's activities are as follows:

▲ Geotechnical Group: No report presented

▲ Structural Group: Director Becq-Giraudon presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the group.

▲ Environmental Engineering & Water Resources Group: Chair Baldauf presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the group.

▲ Urban Planning & Development Group: No report presented

▲ Transportation Group: Vice Chair Cerda presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the group.

▲ Younger Member Group: A sponsorship request was presented by James Wonneberg. The board discussed request from YMG for

sponsorship of YMG Golf Outing. Decision made that Section writing a small check to YMG is probably not effective form of support. President Johnson will call YMG Chair Smith to discuss how Section can better support YMG and its efforts.

■ *Committee Reports*

▲ Communication & Web Site: Chair Olson delivered the report.

▲ Minority Affairs: Chair Granzeier presented a written report outlining previous, current and next month's activities for the group. Secretary Gorski presented a summary of the golf outing and thanked the groups for their support.

▲ Public Affairs Committee: No report presented

▲ Membership Committee: No report presented

■ *Old Business*

▲ Website Update Template – Darren Olson/ Bob Gorski - Secretary Gorski presented the DRAFT website; feedback is requested by Monday, June 25th.

▲ 2007 Special Projects Follow-up – Joe Johnson

▲ Distribution of 150th Anniversary Books – Leo Morand

▲ 2007 Annual Dinner Update – Secretary Gorski and Chair King have been discussing possible key note speakers and a new emcee.

▲ 2007 Awards Nominations – Chair Moore is awaiting nominations, Director Giraudon is assisting and will become the 2008 Awards Chair.

▲ 2007 Headquarters Orientation – Joe Johnson

▲ Me, Myself & Infrastructure Exhibit – Presentation by Greg Dreicer

ASCE supported exhibit to be displayed in Chicago at the Chicago Architecture Foundation from August to about Thanksgiving Exhibit originally developed for ASCE 150th Anniversary; being refurbished and modified to include Chicago-specific themes.

Opportunities for Illinois Section Involvement:

- Mr. Dreicer looking for space to set up and work on exhibit prior to opening in August
- Mr. Dreicer looking for input on exhibit elements (e.g., Kay Whitlock offered to facilitate contacts with Naperville)
- Mr. Dreicer looking for ideas for related activities (e.g., lectures, presentations, workshops) as well as sponsorship support.
- President Johnson asked Board to try to identify some members that would be interested in helping spearhead the Illinois Section's involvement with this activity.

▲ 2007 Golf Outing Results – Secretary Gorski presented a report outlying the outing.

■ *New Business*

▲ Correspondence from Region 3 Director

▲ National action on 501(c)(6) proposal

By Robert Gorski, Secretary/Abdul Khan, Past President

Robert.gorski@hdrinc.com

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July 3 Minority Affairs Committee Monthly Meeting

July 5 Younger Member Group Monthly Happy Hour

July 10 Environmental Engineering and Water
Resources Group Social Meeting

July 11-12 Environmental Engineering and Water
Resources Seminar–Risk-Based Corrective
Action for Chemical Releases

August 7 Minority Affairs Monthly Meeting

August 9 Urban Planning & Development Group
Monthly Meeting

August 14 Environmental Engineering and Water
Resources Group Meeting

August 20 Younger Member Group Cubs Outing

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INFORMATION REGARDING ILLINOIS SECTION
ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS
