The current interchange at Exit 16 is a grade separated tight diamond interchange with I-89 crossing over U.S. 2/7 via two bridges. The existing interchange yields frequent traffic congestion, lengthy delays, and significant queuing during peak hours. These existing conditions are a safety concern with a high number of incidents, collisions, and a lack of accommodations for non-motorized travel.

PROJECT MILESTONES

Preliminary Plans
September 28, 2012

Permitting
November 28, 2016

Right of Way Clear
Winter 2022

Bid Advertisement
Phase 1
Summer 2022
Phase 2
Winter 2024

Contract Award
Phase 1
Summer 2022
Phase 2
Spring 2024

Target Construction Schedule

Phase 1 Work
Winter 2023 - Fall 2023

Phase 2 Work
Fall 2024 - Summer 2026

Exit 16 DDI

Diverging Diamond Interchange

PROJECT LOCATION:

U.S. Routes 2/7 (U.S. 2/7) in Colchester from Winooski town line north 1.05 miles to Sunderland Woods Road

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) is improving the roadway along the U.S. 2/7 corridor, in the vicinity of Interstate 89 (I-89) Exit 16, to enhance mobility and safety in Colchester, Vermont. The core of the project is to reconfigure the existing tight diamond interchange to a **Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI)** at I-89 Exit 16.

Additional improvements include:

- Adding turn lanes at the Mountain View Drive, Hercules Drive and Rathe Road intersections.
- Construction of dedicated pedestrian and shared pedestrian/bicycle facilities such as sidewalks and shared-use paths.
- Modernizing traffic signals at South Park Drive, I-89 Exit 16, Mountain View Drive, Hercules Drive, Rathe Road, and at Tigan Street in Winooski City.

VERMONT
AGENCY OF TRANSPORTATION

WHAT IS A DDI?

A **Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI)** is an innovative, modern interchange design that can relieve traffic congestion and improve safety for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

In a DDI, traffic crosses to the left side of the roadway allowing for ease of access to the interstate by eliminating difficult left turns. With traffic diverted to the left side of the roadway, vehicles making a left onto the interstate entrance ramps do not have to cross oncoming traffic, creating fewer conflict points. The reduction of conflict points reduces potential user collisions, thus improving safety and vehicle throughput. With left turn movements operating freely within the DDI, the traffic signals no longer require dedicated left turn phasing, improving overall traffic operations at the interchange. Additional benefits include reducing driver discomfort, fuel consumption, and lost time. Raised islands within the interchange create short crossing distances, which increase overall safety for non-motorized users such as pedestrians and bicyclists.

PROJECT COST:

The project is estimated to cost approximately $14 million.

In addition to the safety and operational benefits of the DDI, the construction of a DDI is cost effective. The DDI can be constructed utilizing the existing bridge structures eliminating the need to modify or replace them, reducing construction costs. The construction schedule of a DDI is much shorter than the construction of more common interchanges not only reducing overall cost, but also impacts to the traveling public.

CONSTRUCTION:

Construction of the Exit 16 DDI project will be completed in two phases under two separate contracts which will be executed sequentially. The first phase of construction will begin in Winter 2023 and will consist mainly of utility relocation, ledge removal, retaining wall and drainage work. The second phase of construction is anticipated to begin in Fall 2024 after the completion of Phase 1 and will focus on the roadway construction including the installation of the DDI, the addition of turning lanes, and the implementation of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations. The project is anticipated to be completed by Summer 2026.

During construction, weekly Construction Updates will be distributed to notify the public of construction activities and travel conditions for the following week. Project Updates and Traffic Alerts will be issued on an as needed basis throughout the life of the project. Sign-up to receive project updates on the website: **www.Exit16DDI.vtransprojects.vermont.gov**.

Contractor: S.D. Ireland Brothers Corporation

VTrans Project Manager: Michael LaCroix

VTrans Resident Engineer: Chris Lavalette

CONTACT US

For more information on Exit 16 DDI Project visit
www.Exit16DDI.vtransprojects.vermont.gov
Email us **info@Exit16DDI.vtransprojects.vermont.gov**
or call the 24-hour project hotline

Facebook: @VtransOnTheRoad

Twitter: @AOTVermont

Instagram: @AOTVermont

YouTube: VTransTV

Flickr: VTrans