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An aerial photo of the new "diverging diamond" interchange, that opened Tuesday in D'Iberville. (MDOT photo)

MDOT explains 'diverging diamond' interchange

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The Mississippi Department of Transportation opened a new "diverging diamond" interchange this week.

According to MDOT, economic growth in D'Iberville in the wake of Hurricane Katrina resulted in an exponential increase in traffic around the Interstate 10/Interstate 110 interchange, which prompted the launch of a project in 2013 to improve the interchange at D'Iberville Boulevard.

MDOT says diverging diamond interchanges are a "new design being implemented across the country as a safer, more cost-efficient alternative

to traditional interchanges."

What MDOT describes as the "centerpiece" of the interchange is the Galleria Parkway Overpass, which features a traffic signal at each end. Here's how MDOT explains traveling the new interchange.

"As drivers approach the interchange and pass-through the signal, they will cross over to the opposite side of the roadway. The driver will continue across the bridge over I-10 on this side as they approach the second traffic signal. Traffic will then be directed through the second signal back to the right side of the road. This unique design prevents vehicles from crossing lanes of opposing traffic to merge onto I-10.

"Motorists traveling south on D'Iberville Boulevard wanting to exit onto I-10 west will move into the farthest right lane and merge onto I-10 west. Motorists wanting to bypass I-10 and continue south on D'Iberville Boulevard will use either of the two traffic lanes.

Pavement markings, signs and traffic signals at the opposite end of the interchange will guide motorists back to the right side of the road.

Motorists traveling east on I-10 wanting to exit onto D'Iberville and head south will exit the off-ramp and stay in the right lane when the off-ramp divides."

The new interchange opened Tuesday.