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Governor Bredesen Announces Grants for Tri-Cities Regional Airport

Grants awarded through TDOT's Aeronautics Division

NASHVILLE—Governor Phil Bredesen announced today that federal and state aeronautics grants totaling \$1.4 million have been approved for Tri-Cities Regional Airport.

"Our local airports are vital to the economy and travel system of Tennessee," said Bredesen. "Investing in our airports helps keep them competitive and efficient at meeting the needs of businesses and travelers. I'm pleased to support continued improvement at Tri-Cities Regional Airport."

More than \$1.3 million in federal grant funds and \$35,682 in state aeronautics grant funds will be used for property acquisition. Another federal grant of \$52,250 and state grant of \$1,375 will fund emergency repairs to Taxiway "V" & "Y" and installation of a Taxiway "A" guidance sign.

The grants are made available through the Tennessee Department of Transportation's Aeronautics Division.

"This division administers federal and state funding to assist in the location, design, construction and maintenance of Tennessee's diverse public aviation system," reported TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely. "We are pleased to continue to support Tennessee's general aviation and commercial airports."

Except for routine expenditures, grant applications are reviewed by the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission (TAC), which is a five member board charged with policy planning and with regulating changes in the state airport system plan.

Ronald Cooper is Chair of the TAC and explained, "These grants can have a significant impact on the future of a general aviation airport and its economic contributions to our state. Our board carefully reviews all applications for grant funds to ensure that the proper state and local matching funds are in place and that the grants will be put to good use."

The TDOT Aeronautics Division has the responsibility of inspecting and licensing the state's 126 heliports and 75 public/general aviation airports. The Division also provides aircraft and related services for state government and staffing for the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission.

The Sullivan and Washington County legislative delegations helped secure these funds for Tri-Cities Regional Airport.

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