



**Tennessee Department of Transportation  
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**Governor Bredesen Announces Grant for Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport**  
*Grant awarded through TDOT's Aeronautics Division*

**NASHVILLE**—Governor Phil Bredesen announced today that an aeronautics grant totaling \$125,000 has been approved for the Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport in Sevier County.

“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 these improvements at the Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport.”

The Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport will use the funds for paving of an access road to the terminal.

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.

TAC Chair Larry Mullins explained, “Our board examines the applications carefully 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 Sevier County legislative delegation helped secure these funds for the Gatlinburg-Pigeon Forge Airport.

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