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June 9, 2009

**Governor Bredesen Announces Grant for McMinn County Airport**

*Grant awarded through TDOT's Aeronautics Division*

**NASHVILLE**—Governor Phil Bredesen announced today that a federal aeronautics grant totaling \$812,250 has been approved for the McMinn County 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 the McMinn County Airport.”

McMinn County Airport will use the grant funds for runway safety improvements and stream relocation.

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](#).

Senator Dewayne Bunch and Representative Mike Bell represent McMinn County in the Tennessee General Assembly and helped secure this grant.

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