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**Bredesen Announces Recovery Act Funds for Kingsport Area Transit System
\$9.7 Million in Recovery Act Funds Awarded to Eight Small Urban Transit Providers**

NASHVILLE – Governor Phil Bredesen announced today that the Kingsport Area Transit System (KATS) will receive \$1,291,347 in funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for transit services in the city of Kingsport. KATS operates five fixed routes and paratransit services.

“Many Tennesseans, particularly those with limited mobility, already rely on public transportation for their daily needs and many others would like to see expanded transit options,” said Bredesen. “The Recovery Act funds announced today will help our small urban transit providers in Tennessee improve service and replace aging fleets with safer, more reliable vehicles.”

A total of \$9.7 million in Recovery Act funds is being provided to eight small urban transit agencies in Tennessee.

KATS plans to use the Recovery Act funds to purchase several new buses, including passenger lift-equipped mini-buses and vans.

“Many of the vans and buses in the state’s transit fleets have accumulated hundreds of thousands of miles over the years and have outlasted their useful life,” said TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely. “Replacing these vehicles will allow transit agencies to provide safer, more dependable service to their customers and will generate manufacturing work for the companies providing the vehicles.”

Federal Recovery Act transit funds are administered by TDOT’s Division of Multimodal Transportation Resources. Tennessee received a total of \$72 million in Recovery Act transit funds. Of those funds, \$42.2 million was directed by the federal government to the state’s four large urban areas, Memphis, Nashville, Chattanooga and Knoxville.

For more information on TDOT’s Division of Multimodal Transportation Resources visit www.tn.gov/tdot. For more information on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, visit www.recovery.gov. For TDOT specific information on the Recovery Act visit www.tn.gov/tdot/recovery.

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