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**Governor Bredesen Announces Enhancement Grant for Blount County
*Grant to Fund Phase One of Pellissippi Place Greenway Project***

NASHVILLE - Governor Phil Bredesen joined TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely and state and local leaders today to announce the award of a \$345,240 transportation enhancement grant to Blount County for Phase One of the Pellissippi Place Greenway project.

Phase One of the Pellissippi Place Greenway project includes construction of 6,200 linear feet of greenway connecting to the existing city of Alcoa Greenway Trail system at McNutt Avenue and terminating at the Pellissippi Research Center. The new greenway trail will be a ten foot wide paved trail that will traverse much of the southern portion of the new Pellissippi Place.

"This project is strongly supported by the cities and counties in this area and incorporates economic development, transportation options and housing into one master plan to create a great place to live and work," said Bredesen. "Projects like Pellissippi Place foster more livable communities and I'm pleased the state is able to help fund this greenway trail which will also encourage more active lifestyles for residents."

Senator Doug Overbey added, "By connecting to planned and existing greenway trails, the new Pellissippi Place will provide more families with an opportunity to leave the car at home and take the greenway to school or work for improved health and reduced transportation costs."

"I'm pleased the Governor and TDOT are supporting this project with a transportation enhancement grant," said Representative Joe McCord. "Pellissippi Place is important to the economic growth of this area."

Representative Bob Ramsey said, "I'm pleased to support the greenway project for Pellissippi Place. The addition of the greenway will provide residents with more opportunity to exercise and enjoy beautiful Blount County."

The grant is made possible through a federally funded program administered by the Tennessee Department of Transportation.

"Through Transportation Enhancement grants, TDOT has funded approximately \$223 million in non-traditional transportation projects," said Nicely. "Established by Congress in the early 1990's, the program supports activities designed to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic and environmental aspects of the nation's transportation system."

A variety of activities such as the restoration of historic facilities, bike and pedestrian trails, landscaping and other non-traditional transportation projects are eligible for grant funds under the federal program.

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