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Governor Bredesen Announces Enhancement Grant for City of Parsons
Grant to Fund Improvements to Downtown

NASHVILLE - Governor Phil Bredesen and TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely joined state and local leaders today to announce the award of a \$702,544 transportation enhancement grant to the city of Parsons for Phase III of the Downtown Improvement Project.

This phase of the project will focus on the area leading into downtown Parsons from West on U.S. 412 in Decatur County. Parsons is a historical railroad town and all sidewalk and street lighting improvements will accent the area's historical features. Deteriorating curbs and sidewalks will be replaced over a five block area and sections of new sidewalks will be added. Trees will also be added in cast iron tree gates, primarily between North Florida and Jennings Avenues. New decorative pedestrian lighting will be added and will complement the lighting from the project's previous phases.

"This community is making great efforts to capitalize on its rich railroad history, while also providing its residents and visitors with a walkable downtown district," said Bredesen. "I'm pleased the state can make this investment in the city of Parsons."

Senator Roy Herron is a strong supporter of the project and added, "This project will enhance and promote economic development county-wide, will make the city safer and improve the lives of the citizens. I'm pleased to see the Governor and TDOT providing funding for this important project."

"The overall appearance of the city has been greatly improved with the first two phases of this project and I know this next phase will continue to enhance downtown Parsons," said Representative Steve McDaniel.

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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