



**Tennessee Department of Transportation  
Communications Office**

**Julie Oaks**

**615.741.2331 (office)  
615.533.7105 (cell)  
615.741.9093 (fax)**

August 25, 2010

**Governor Bredesen Announces Enhancement Grant for City of Dyersburg**  
***Grant to Fund Improvements to Court Square***

**NASHVILLE** - Governor Phil Bredesen and TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely joined state and local leaders today to announce the award of a \$663,940 transportation enhancement grant to the city of Dyersburg for Phase III of the Court Square – Farmers Market Connection.

The project is located on the North and South Mill Avenues and will continue improvements to the downtown and courthouse areas of Dyersburg. The project includes the addition of nearly 800 feet of new sidewalk, and pedestrian improvements at two busy intersections. A new pedestrian connector will cross the railroad tracks to link to the Farmers Market along the Forked Deer River. The project also includes the planting of new landscaping and trees along the corridor, and new period specific lighting that will replicate the lighting that existed in Dyersburg during the 1920s and 30's. The goal of the project is to create a safer environment for pedestrians and further enhance the appearance of the downtown district.

"This project presents a unique opportunity to promote safety, create visual appeal, and encourage pedestrian and bicycle traffic," said Bredesen. "These improvements make downtown areas more accessible to residents and visitors and can have positive impacts on the local economy. I'm pleased the state is helping with this effort."

"This area has just been named a National Scenic Byway by the U.S. Department of Transportation," said Representative Craig Fitzhugh. "This project will help draw new visitors to the area and provide residents with a more liveable community."

"I believe the viability of rural downtowns is critical to the success of Tennessee's overall economy, said Representative Judy Barker. "I thank Governor Bredesen and TDOT for making this investment in Dyersburg."

Senator Mark Norris also supported the project.

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.

###

**James K. Polk Building, #700 • 505 Deaderick Street • Nashville, Tennessee 37243**  
**[www.tennessee.gov/tdot](http://www.tennessee.gov/tdot)**