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**Governor Bredesen Announces Enhancement Grant for Town of Whiteville
*Grant to Fund Improvements to Sidewalks in Whiteville in Hardeman County***

NASHVILLE - Governor Phil Bredesen and TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely joined state and local leaders today to announce the award of a \$161,957 transportation enhancement grant to the town of Whiteville for the Sidewalk Enhancement Project.

The project will replace deteriorating sidewalks along West Main Street and improve connectivity between City Hall and the Technology Center. New sidewalks on West Main Street, from Woodland Street to School Street, will provide safer access to other city centers such as the library, a day care, the city park, and residential areas. Ornamental lighting will also be placed along the sidewalk, and new signage will be installed to direct visitors to various destinations.

"This project will provide a much needed link between schools, residential areas, and commercial developments," said Bredesen. "These improvements will help keep pedestrians safe and encourage more residents to walk to their destinations. I'm pleased we could make this investment in Hardeman County."

Senator Dolores Gresham added, "These sidewalks improvements are much needed. This project will not only eliminate safety issues, it will also improve access for people with disabilities and will enhance the overall look of this area."

Representative Johnny Shaw added, "I thank Governor Bredesen and TDOT for dedicating the funds to make these important improvements. It will help the residents and visitors take full advantage of all the things Hardeman County has to offer."

Representative Barrett Rich 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.

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