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August 25, 2010

Governor Bredesen Announces Enhancement Grant for City of Jackson
Grant to Fund Improvements to East Chester Street

NASHVILLE - Governor Phil Bredesen and TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely joined state and local leaders today to announce the award of a \$974,729 transportation enhancement grant to the city of Jackson for Phase II of the East Chester Street Improvements.

This phase of the East Chester Street Improvements will focus on removing deteriorated sidewalks and constructing new sidewalks. Street lighting on each side of East Chester Street will be installed to create a more comfortable pedestrian environment and bicycle lanes will be added on each side of East Chester Street to promote multi-modal connectivity. Landscaping will be incorporated throughout the project to enhance the aesthetics of the corridor.

"Phase two of the East Chester Street Improvements will provide citizens and visitors a chance to walk and bike in a safer, more accessible environment," said Bredesen. "This project is important to both the city of Jackson and Madison County and I'm pleased the state is assisting in this positive investment."

"The enhancements proposed will aid this area's continued recovery from the devastating tornado of May 2003," said Senator Lowe Finney. "I believe the program will provide the improvements that will attract more business to the community and eventually economic recovery of the East Jackson community."

Representative Johnny Shaw added, "I'm pleased Governor Bredesen and TDOT are providing the funds for the continued improvement of the East Chester area."

Representative Jimmy Eldridge 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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