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Governor Bredesen Announces Enhancement Grant for Obion County
Grant to Fund Improvements to Courthouse

NASHVILLE - Governor Phil Bredesen and TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely joined state and local leaders today to announce the award of a \$59,477 transportation enhancement grant to Obion County for Phase II of the Courthouse Beautification project.

This project will add retaining walls around much of the courthouse, which is currently surrounded by a steep ditch. The wall addition and new sprinkler system will help preserve the sidewalks added in Phase I of the project by directing water away from the area and eliminating erosion. The project will also help anchor the existing and future landscaping. These improvements will increase pedestrian safety and will continue the beautification efforts that have already been completed at the Obion County Courthouse.

"These improvements to the Courthouse area will further enhance this landmark and also create a safer environment for its users," said Bredesen. "I'm pleased the state could make this investment in Obion County."

Senator Roy Herron added, "These improvements will prevent long-term damage to this building and ensure people's safety. I was pleased to work with Rep. Barker, Governor Bredesen, and TDOT to get this done."

"County courthouses are the cornerstone of many Tennessee communities," said Representative Judy Barker. "A project to preserve this building for the long term and increase safety has my full support."

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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