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**Governor Bredesen Announces Enhancement Grant for Sullivan County  
*Grant to Fund Phase Two of Great Stage Museum and Walking Tour Project***

**NASHVILLE** - Governor Phil Bredesen joined TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely and state and local leaders today to announce the award of a \$281,749 transportation enhancement grant to Sullivan County for Phase II of The Great Stage Museum project.

Phase II of the Great Stage Museum project includes the restoration of the Old Sheriff's Home and the Rutledge House in Blountville. The County will transform the Old Sheriff's Home into an information center highlighting The Battle of Blountville Civil War Trail, the Great Stage Walking Tour, and other historic sites in the northeast Tennessee area. Additionally, the Rutledge House will be restored to serve as a staging area for the Walking Tour to provide visitors with shelter during inclement weather and as a location for special events. The Great Stage Museum and Walking Tour is located primarily on Highway 126 from Highway 394 to Massengill Road in Blountville.

"Roadways like the Great Stage Road, played an important part in the early development of our state," said Bredesen. "Travelers along the Great Stage Road in the 1800s often stopped in Blountville on their way to the first frontier. The City is embracing this historic past and I'm pleased the state is able to provide these funds to complete the final piece of the Great Stage Museum and Walking Tour."

Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey added, "The city of Blountville is fortunate to have several structures constructed in the 1800s still standing today. When this project is complete, Blountville's rich history will be preserved for future generations and these historic buildings will become new places for the community to gather for music, meetings and lessons on the city's past."

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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