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Bredesen Announces Grant for the Discover Tennessee Trails and Byways Program

NASHVILLE - Governor Phil Bredesen joined TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely today to announce the award of a \$200,000 transportation enhancement grant to the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development for the Discover Tennessee Trails and Byways program.

The Discover Tennessee Trails and Byways program encompasses all 95 counties of the state with 16 regional self-guided driving trails and five National Scenic Byways. Funds from this grant will help with signing four trails and byways with wayfinding signs. Visitors will be able to follow the signs and use the trail brochures to drive the route and catch all the attractions.

“The Discover Tennessee Trails and Byways program is a great way to introduce visitors and Tennesseans to the state’s hidden gems, outdoor adventures, beautiful natural landscapes, landmarks, and historic main streets,” said Bredesen. “The trails and byways program also helps enhance rural development efforts by providing a direct route to Tennessee’s main streets.”

“The trails and byways program offers a great new way for visitors to explore the back roads and byways of Tennessee,” said Department of Tourist Development Commissioner Susan Whitaker. “The program is the most comprehensive marketing and branding initiative ever launched by our agency and is an exceptional introduction to Tennessee’s ‘off-the-beaten path’ attractions.”

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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