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Governor Bredesen Announces Enhancement Grant for City of Martin
Grant to Fund Improvements to Downtown

NASHVILLE - Governor Phil Bredesen and TDOT Commissioner Gerald Nicely joined state and local leaders today to announce the award of a \$1,191,017 transportation enhancement grant to the City of Martin for Phase III of the Downtown Improvement Project.

The Phase III project will provide a connection between the core of downtown Martin and the University of Tennessee at Martin campus. The new features will enhance the downtown area and create a more pedestrian oriented environment. The project will include the construction of sidewalks along State Route 431 (University Street) from Elm Street to Lovelace Avenue, and the installation of native trees and landscaping. Decorative, pedestrian friendly lighting will increase safety and improve nighttime access to area businesses.

"This project will create more walkable areas within Martin and provide important links between its city centers, schools, and businesses," said Bredesen. "I'm pleased the state can make investments like this to enhance local communities."

Senator Roy Herron added, "These improvements will benefit citizens, encourage more visitors, and be a major asset to UT-Martin's recruitment efforts that will help our county and region."

"I'm pleased Governor Bredesen and TDOT are providing these funds for the continued improvement of the downtown Martin area. This project will encourage more people to visit and enjoy our downtown," said Representative Mark Maddox.

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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