

Photo by Anthony Dake

Paving the way

McMinn County Highway Department employee Paul Young works on a new road in front of the Johns Manville plant in Etowah Tuesday. The 1,000-foot road is being built as a second access point into the plant, and is helping Johns Manville with its new glass mat production line. Johns Manville is providing the engineering plans for the road. McMinn County Highway Commissioner Randall Moss says the new road should be complete in May.



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Airport gets \$333,333 grant

Gov. Governor Phil Bredesen announced last week that the state will provide an Aeronautics Grant in the amount of \$333,333 to Mark Anton Airport in Dayton to assist with improvements to that facility.

"Our general aviation airports serve as important hubs for businesses operating in the state, for shipping, and as reliever airports for larger flight centers," said Bredesen.

"They are a key component to our transportation system and need to be kept up to date."

The grant will be used to complete the construction of a six-unit hangar which will help the airport be more competitive," explained state Senator Tommy Kilby. "This is a good investment for the state."

Tennessee Department of Transportation Commissioner Gerald Nicely explained that the grants are made

available through the department's Aeronautics Division.

"This Division administers federal and state funding to assist in the location, design, construction and maintenance of Tennessee's diverse public aviation system," reported Nicely. "We are pleased to be able to provide millions of dollars each year for the betterment of our airports through our grant programs."

Grant applications are

reviewed by the Tennessee Aeronautics Commission, which is a five-member board charged with policy planning and with regulating changes in the state airport system plan.

"We take our duties very seriously," reported TAC Chairman Fred Dettwiller. "These grants can have a profound impact on the future of a general aviation airport and its economic contributions."