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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Spring Hill cuts ribbon on two grant-funded ‘Walk to School’ pedestrian walkways

SPRING HILL, Tenn. – City of Spring Hill officials on Thursday held two ribbon cuttings to officially open two long-awaited walkway projects: Tanyard Springs and Spring Station walking trails.
Both grant-funded walkways will provide students near Heritage Elementary and Middle Schools, Spring Station Middle, and Summit High School complete walking routes to school, and create a new recreational opportunity for neighboring Spring Hill subdivisions.

The two ribbon cuttings also included Walk to School Day events, to bring awareness to the new school walking routes, which included about 50 students and 10 faculty from Heritage Middle School, and more than 200 students, parents and staff from Heritage Elementary, who walked along Tanyard Springs Trail to school Thursday morning. The ‘Walk to School Day’ event was organized by Millie Halvorson, who played a significant role in advocating and pursuing funds for the project.

A closer look at the walkway projects:

**Tanyard Springs Trail**: A 10-foot-wide, elevated, boardwalk-style walkway that spans 230 feet over a small creek along the edge of the Tanyard Springs neighborhood connecting into an existing walkway constructed by the Town of Thompson’s Station.

The new section was funded through a $69,686 Tennessee Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant, along with a $30,000 additional contribution by the City of Spring Hill.

**Spring Station Trail**: An 8-foot-wide multi-use path that spans 1,800 feet and connects into existing sidewalks at each end to create a school pedestrian connection, complete with crosswalks. The project connects sidewalks across Buckner Lane in the Cherry Grove Addition to the Summit High and Spring Station Middle campus, which has its own trail and sidewalk network.

The project was funded primarily through a $56,158 Active Transportation Program grant, which is federal transportation funds received through the Nashville Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The total project cost was about $89,000, with the City contributing the remaining funds.

“Though these walkway projects have taken significant time, I think the City of Spring Hill’s commitment to complete them is a reflection of what we know is important to our citizens,” said Alderman Jonathan Duda, who played a major role in guiding the two walkway projects to completion through a lengthy grant process.

“Our Census numbers show that Spring Hill has attracted a uniquely high percentage of young families with children, and they’re looking for a variety of recreation to keep their families active,” Alderman Duda said. “For instance, we had over 100 individual letters of support for the Spring Station project, which was unprecedented for a grant request and demonstrates the type of strong community support we had for this project.”

With the opening of these two projects, along with the five Neighborhood Sidewalk Program projects completed this year, the City of Spring Hill has completed almost one mile in total pedestrian walkways in 2015.