



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 19, 2022

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Knox County Receives \$1.9 M grant to build Gibbs Pedestrian Bridge

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— Knox County has received an almost \$2 million state grant to help build a pedestrian bridge for the Gibbs community that will be dedicated to Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss.

The grant, which is under the state's 2022 Transportation Alternatives Program, will soon go before the Knox County Commission where it is expected to be approved.

The bridge will cost about \$2.4 million overall with the county covering the remaining portion.

The Knox County Engineering & Public Works Department has already started design work and construction is set for early- to mid-2024.

Knauss, a Gibbs High School graduate, was one of 13 soldiers killed during the attack at the Kabul airport in August 2021. Local leaders felt dedicating the much-needed bridge for Gibbs is a great way to keep Knauss' memory alive, while also providing staff, students, and the general public safe passage across Tazewell Pike between the community's three schools.

"This bridge will be a visible reminder of the sacrifice Staff Sgt. Ryan Knauss made so that we could enjoy the blessings of freedom and liberty," said Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. My hope is that when folks walk across or drive under this bridge, they will reflect upon Ryan's life, selflessness, and heroism which is an example to us all."

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