

**February  
2020**

**Kansas Statewide Survey  
Rail /Amtrak**



**DFM RESEARCH**

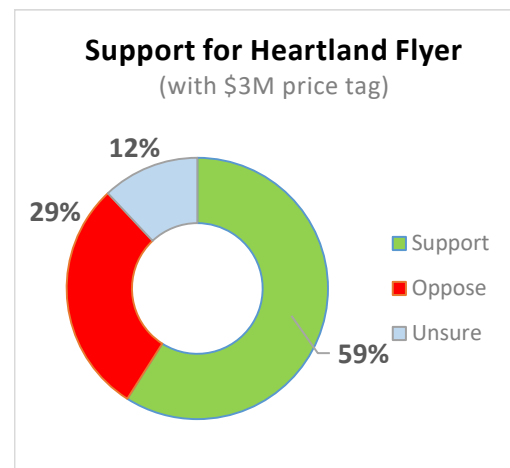
St. Paul, Minnesota  
[www.dfmresearch.com](http://www.dfmresearch.com)

## **Executive Summary:**

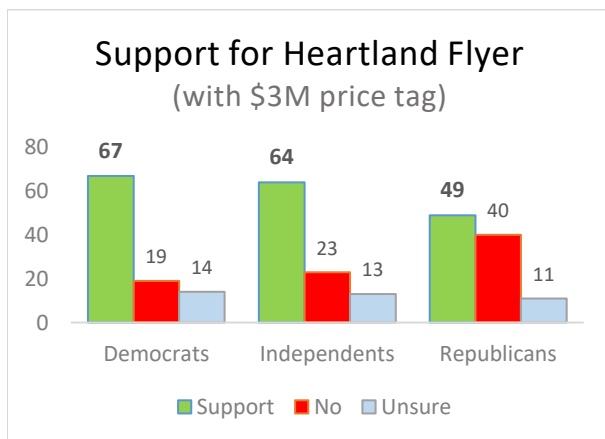
Bottom line: by a two-to-one margin 59 percent (support) to 29 percent (oppose), Kansas residents strongly support expanded Heartland Flyer Amtrak service into the state, even when told service could cost the state of Kansas up to \$3 million annually. The survey was conducted January 30 through February 6, 2020 comprising 525 random Kansas adults (600 for political questions) by live caller utilizing both landline and cell phones. Margin of error is +/- 4.3 percentage points with a 95 percent confidence level.

The focus of the Kansas rail survey was to measure the public's support for Amtrak and the Heartland Flyer, a two-person crew state regulation, and the impact of long-trains. Final results clearly show Kansans support an expansion (even knowing the cost) of the Heartland Flyer from Oklahoma City into Kansas. Consider:

- Initial support of the Heartland Flyer (HF) is overwhelmingly in favor, with 87 percent of Kansans in support to just 7 percent opposed (when told HF service would expand into Kansas with daily service to Oklahoma City and Dallas-Fort Worth).
- Support for the HF decreases when told service could cost the state of Kansas up to \$3 Million a year; support is still at a strong two-to-one ratio (with every demographic group supporting an expansion of HF service, including Republicans).



What is significant about the support level for the Heartland Flyer expanded service is that 80 percent of respondents say they have not been a recent passenger on Amtrak, yet these Kansans still support the concept of more rail service in Kansas by 57 to 31 percent (Amtrak riders support the expansion 69 to 22 percent). Groupings where we also see some gaps are education levels (college educated more in support than non-college) and political party preference (little difference between Democrats and Independents, with Republican still in support of Heartland Flyer service).



The demographics where we see uniformity (no wedges) in support of the Heartland Flyer expansion are: gender, age and where you live (crosstabs by the four congressional districts).

Bottom line, no matter the age, education level, gender, partisan inclination or where one lives, Kansans support the state of Kansas spending money (up to \$3 Million annually) to connect Kansas to the Heartland Flyers' service to the Dallas Metroplex. The numbers are clear.

## **Methodology:**

The results presented are based on a stratified random sample of 600 Kansas residents over the age of 18. Unlike past surveys for SMART Transportation Division, the Kansas survey did not use a likely voter screen. The sample was stratified by the state's four congressional districts to ensure a statewide representative sample. All calls were conducted by live callers using landline and mobile phones.

After the numbers were stratified into the appropriate region, telephone numbers were selected at random using a skip pattern to guarantee interviews were distributed throughout the region. Each number in the stratified sample had the same non-zero chance of being selected for an interview.

Telephone interviews were conducted by trained staff of KGS Research of Las Vegas, Nevada, using a computer-assisted telephone interview (CATI) system for landline phones. Cell phone interviews are dialed manually to comply with the 1991 Telemarketing Consumer Protection Act. To ensure everyone in the household would have an equal chance of being selected, callers would ask to interview the resident over the age of 18 who had the most recent birthday.

Final results are weighted based on gender, age, education, voter registration and region to conform to the 2018 United States Census Bureau demographic data.

<u>Gender</u>		<u>Age</u>		<u>Education</u>	
Male	50%	18-34	27%	No College Degree	67%
Female	50%	35-49	32%	College Degree	33%
		50-64	22%		
		65 plus	19%		

The final results are subject to sampling error, which is the difference between results obtained from the survey and those that would be obtained if every adult was interviewed in the district. The margin of error is +/- 4.0 percentage points with a 95 percent confidence level; meaning that in 19 out of 20 times, the individual responses would be within the margin of error. For example, if a question produced a final result of 50 percent, the likely range would be between 46.0 to 54.0 percent had the entire population been surveyed. Where appropriate in the survey, question and answer choices are randomized to help reduce bias and due to rounding and results may not equal 100 percent.

Project management and final analysis of the data was completed by Dean Mitchell of DFM Research based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. In addition to his 28 years of political experience, Dean has completed course work in survey techniques and statistics as part of his Master in Public Policy (MPP) degree from the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Interviews: 600 Kansas residents age 18+ by live caller  
Margin of Error: +/- 4.0 percentage points with a 95 percent level of confidence  
Interview Dates: January 30 – February 6, 2020 (did not call on Super Bowl Sunday)  
Sample: Landline and cell phone sample. Phone numbers stratified into the four Kansas Congressional Districts to ensure geographic balance.  
Survey Sponsor: SMART Transportation Division’s Kansas State Legislative Board

## **Topline**

**Q1:** To start, do you think Kansas is moving in the right direction or is Kansas off on the wrong track?

Right Direction .....	<b>50%</b>
Wrong Track .....	<b>30</b>
(VOL) Unsure .....	<b>20</b>

**Q2:** I’m now going to read you some names of public figures. For each one, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion, and if you never heard of them before, just say so:

	<u>Favorable</u>	<u>Unfavorable</u>	<u>Neutral (VOL)</u>	<u>Never Heard Of</u>
a: Donald Trump	<b>51%</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>
b: Pat Roberts	<b>45</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
c: Jerry Moran	<b>42</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>24</b>
d: Laura Kelly	<b>49</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>14</b>
e: Kris Kobach	<b>34</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>
f: Roger Marshall	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>48</b>
g: Susan Waggle	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>44</b>
h: Dave Lindstrom	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>70</b>
i: Mike Pompeo	<b>41</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>
j: Barbara Bollier	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>69</b>

**Q3:** I am now going to read you a list of potential Democratic nominees that could be running against Donald Trump for President of the United States. For each one, tell me whether you would vote for Donald Trump the Republican or the Democratic nominee?

**a:** Donald Trump or Joe Biden

Donald Trump .....	<b>51%</b>
Joe Biden .....	<b>43</b>
(VOL) Someone else .....	<b>3</b>
(VOL) Unsure .....	<b>3</b>

**b: Donald Trump or Bernie Sanders**

Donald Trump .....	<b>53%</b>
Bernie Sanders .....	<b>43</b>
(VOL) Someone else .....	<b>2</b>
(VOL) Unsure .....	<b>1</b>

**c: Donald Trump or Mike Bloomberg**

Donald Trump .....	<b>50%</b>
Mike Bloomberg .....	<b>43</b>
(VOL) Someone else .....	<b>2</b>
(VOL) Unsure .....	<b>4</b>

**d: Donald Trump or Elizabeth Warren**

Donald Trump .....	<b>53%</b>
Elizabeth Warren .....	<b>41</b>
(VOL) Someone else .....	<b>3</b>
(VOL) Unsure .....	<b>3</b>

**Q4:** And for the U.S. Senate seat here in Kansas, if the election was today, would you vote for the Republican candidate, the Democratic candidate or are you still undecided?

Republican candidate .....	<b>39%</b>
Democratic candidate .....	<b>31</b>
Still undecided .....	<b>30</b>

**Q5:** And what if the candidates for the U.S. Senate seat were Kris Kobach the Republican and Barbara Bollier the Democrat, for whom would you vote?

Kris Kobach .....	<b>43%</b>
Barbara Bollier .....	<b>43</b>
(VOL) A different candidate .....	<b>4</b>
(VOL) Unsure .....	<b>10</b>

**Q6:** And in the race for U.S. Congress in your Congressional District, are you more likely to vote for the Republican candidate or more likely to vote for the Democratic candidate?

Republican candidate .....	<b>44%</b>
Democratic candidate .....	<b>41</b>
(VOL) Other party .....	<b>1</b>
(VOL) Unsure .....	<b>14</b>

**Q7:** I now want to ask a few questions about railroads. Thinking back the past year or so, do you recall seeing or hearing any news stories about railroading or the railroad industry?

Yes .....	<b>38%</b>
No / Unsure .....	<b>62</b>

**Q8:** Thinking back the past two years or so, how often have you been an Amtrak passenger, whether here in Kansas or anywhere else in the country?

Never.....	<b>81%</b>
One to Two Times .....	<b>13</b>
Three to Five Times .....	<b>4</b>
More than Five Times .....	<b>3</b>

**Q9:** Currently in Kansas, Amtrak has one daily passenger train route with service to Chicago and San Francisco. When it comes to passenger rail service here in Kansas, which best fits your view?

Passenger rail should increase .....	<b>54%</b>
Passenger rail should remain the same .....	<b>31</b>
Passenger rail should be eliminated .....	<b>3</b>
(VOL) Unsure .....	<b>12</b>

**Q10:** Some here in Kansas have proposed Amtrak should expand, with service from Kansas City and Wichita to Dallas, Texas. This would be an expansion of Amtrak’s Heartland Flyer service between Oklahoma City and Dallas. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the expansion of the Heartland Flyer into Kansas?

Strongly support .....	<b>42%</b>	82% support
Somewhat support .....	<b>40</b>	
Somewhat oppose .....	<b>4</b>	7% oppose
Strongly oppose .....	<b>3</b>	
(VOL) Unsure .....	<b>11</b>	

**Q11:** To connect Amtrak’s Heartland Flyer to cities in Kansas will require the state to pay the ‘full’ operational cost, which could be up to \$3 million dollars per year. Knowing this, do you support or oppose the expansion of the Amtrak’s Heartland Flyer into Kansas?

Strongly support .....	<b>30%</b>	59% support
Somewhat support .....	<b>29</b>	
Somewhat oppose .....	<b>13</b>	29% oppose
Strongly oppose .....	<b>16</b>	
(VOL) Unsure .....	<b>12</b>	

## Select Crosstabs

**Q9:** Currently in Kansas, Amtrak has one daily passenger train route with service to Chicago and San Francisco. When it comes to passenger rail service here in Kansas, which best fits your view?

Passenger rail should increase .....	<b>54%</b>
Passenger rail should remain the same .....	<b>31</b>
Passenger rail should be eliminated .....	<b>3</b>
(VOL) Unsure .....	<b>12</b>

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>Eliminate</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	50	37	3	10
Women	58	25	3	13
<u>Age</u>				
18-39	47	36	2	14
40-64	58	29	4	9
65 plus	60	24	3	12
<u>Education</u>				
No College Degree	52	31	3	13
College Degree	58	30	2	9
<u>Congressional District</u>				
1st CD	61	25	2	12
2nd CD	52	35	3	9
3rd CD	50	32	5	13
4th CD	54	31	2	13
<u>Party Identification</u>				
Democrat	63	25	3	8
Independent	60	26	2	12
Republican	45	38	3	13
<u>Amtrak</u>				
Non Amtrak Passenger	52	32	3	13
Amtrak Passenger	64	28	3	5

**Q10:** Some here in Kansas have proposed Amtrak should expand, with service from Kansas City and Wichita to Dallas, Texas. This would be an expansion of Amtrak’s Heartland Flyer service between Oklahoma City and Dallas. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the expansion of the Heartland Flyer into Kansas?

Strongly support ..... **42%** 82% support  
 Somewhat support ..... **40**  
 Somewhat oppose ..... **4** 7% oppose  
 Strongly oppose ..... **3**  
 (VOL) Unsure ..... **11**

<b><u>Gender</u></b>	<b><u>Strongly Support</u></b>	<b><u>Somewhat Support</u></b>	<b><u>Somewhat Oppose</u></b>	<b><u>Strongly Disapprove</u></b>	<b><u>Unsure</u></b>
Men	41	42	6	4	8
Women	44	38	2	2	14
<b><u>Age</u></b>					
18-39	40	42	4	2	11
40-64	42	41	5	2	10
65 plus	43	37	3	6	11
<b><u>Education</u></b>					
No College Degree	39	42	4	3	11
College Degree	48	36	4	3	10
<b><u>Congressional District</u></b>					
1st CD	39	41	6	3	12
2nd CD	45	39	2	4	10
3rd CD	36	42	6	3	13
4th CD	49	39	2	3	9
<b><u>Party Identification</u></b>					
Democrat	50	38	3	1	8
Independent	46	37	4	3	10
Republican	35	43	5	5	13
<b><u>Amtrak</u></b>					
Non Amtrak Passenger	40	41	4	4	11
Amtrak Passenger	51	36	3	1	9



**Q11:** To connect Amtrak’s Heartland Flyer to cities in Kansas will require the state to pay the ‘full’ operational cost, which could be up to \$3 million dollars per year. Knowing this, do you support or oppose the expansion of the Amtrak’s Heartland Flyer into Kansas?

Strongly support ..... **30%** 59% support  
 Somewhat support ..... **29**  
 Somewhat oppose ..... **13** 29% oppose  
 Strongly oppose ..... **16**  
 (VOL) Unsure ..... **12**

<u>Gender</u>	<u>Strongly Support</u>	<u>Somewhat Support</u>	<u>Somewhat Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly Disapprove</u>	<u>Unsure</u>
Men	31	28	15	16	10
Women	28	31	10	16	14
<u>Age</u>					
18-39	27	34	12	14	13
40-64	32	28	13	17	10
65 plus	32	30	8	17	13
<u>Education</u>					
No College Degree	26	30	14	19	11
College Degree	36	28	11	11	13
<u>Congressional District</u>					
1st CD	26	34	11	21	8
2nd CD	34	26	12	17	12
3rd CD	28	27	13	12	20
4th CD	31	31	16	16	7
<u>Party Identification</u>					
Democrat	34	33	11	8	14
Independent	34	30	7	16	13
Republican	23	26	19	21	11
<u>Amtrak</u>					
Non Amtrak Passenger	27	30	14	17	13
Amtrak Passenger	41	28	10	12	9