

Dwight D. Eisenhower State Office Building
700 S.W. Harrison Street
Topeka, KS 66603-3745
Calvin E. Reed, P.E., Acting Secretary



Phone: 785-296-3461
Fax: 785-368-7415
kdot#publicinfo@ks.gov
<http://www.ksdot.gov>
Laura Kelly, Governor

June 9, 2023

Darrel Pyle
City Manager
The City of Norman
201 W. Gray St.
Norman, OK 73069

Dear Mr. Pyle,

Thank you for continuous support of passenger rail in the State of Kansas. The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is currently focused on the expansion of the Heartland Flyer north to Newton with one round trip connecting to Oklahoma City and the existing Heartland Flyer service. At this time, and in coordination with Oklahoma DOT and Amtrak, we feel it is important to successfully implement this connection before expanding the operation towards additional service and frequencies.

KDOT has applied to be included in the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification Program to be considered for future federal funding. This application specifically spells out the request to extend the Heartland Flyer north with one frequency, which aligns with the Amtrak Connect US plan. Adding the second service would require KDOT to pull the current application and submit a new application next year, which would lessen our opportunities to take advantage of grants made available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Moving forward with the current single service application does not preclude a service expansion in the future, following a successful implementation of the initial extension.

KDOT is actively engaged in the Service Development Plan process and striving to outline the information needed to proceed with this project. If you have any questions, please contact Cory Davis via email at Cory.Davis@ks.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Calvin Reed". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Calvin E. Reed, P.E.
Acting Secretary of Transportation
Interim Director of Kansas Turnpike Authority

cc: Secretary of Transportation Tim Gatz, Oklahoma
Northern Flyer Alliance, Inc.