



Dennis J. Newman
Executive Vice President, Strategy and Planning

March 15, 2023

Amit Bose
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Application for Corridor Identification and Development Program Funding

Dear Administrator Bose:

On behalf of the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), I am writing to express our support for the Kansas Department of Transportation application submitted under the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Corridor Identification and Development Program (Corridor ID Program) for the Heartland Flyer Extension Corridor.

The proposed Corridor is an extension of the Heartland Flyer from its current end point at Oklahoma City, OK on to Newton, KS with stops at new stations in Edmond, OK, Guthrie, OK, Perry, OK, Ponca City, OK, Arkansas City, KS and Wichita, KS. The Heartland Flyer Extension would re-connect Oklahoma and Kansas communities north to the national Amtrak network via the Southwest Chief, allowing residents and travelers to access tremendous mobility available through the major east-west route. The long-awaited, full re-connection of this Corridor, which was discontinued in 1979, would provide increased transportation choices and economic opportunity for rural and urban residents and businesses along the fast-growing I-35 megaregion, providing safety benefits to travelers, reducing traffic along a stressed I-35, lowering transportation emissions and leveraging significant existing rail infrastructure and recent station upgrades. The extension would positively impact ridership throughout the Midwest and beyond by connecting six of the fifty most populated cities in the U.S. and improve transportation equity by providing passenger rail service to historically disadvantaged communities and areas of persistent poverty.

The Heartland Flyer Extension Corridor will help strengthen economic growth and mobility throughout the region and the country. Additionally, it will provide public benefits, will make regional travel more available, accessible, and sustainable, will reduce congestion, and will boost the local economy of the cities and towns along the route.

We are excited to potentially work with all of the projects selected through the Corridor ID Program, to help those sponsors move their projects forward towards future implementation. Thank you for your time and consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. J. Newman", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dennis Newman
Executive Vice President, Strategy and Planning