



To: The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

30 January, 2023

The City of Arkansas City, Kan., is pleased to offer support for the Kansas Department of Transportation, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and Texas Department of Transportation's joint application for the Heartland Flyer Extension to be accepted into the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) Program.

Located in the southwestern part of the country, nestled between the Arkansas River and Walnut River, an approximate 15 to 20-minute drive from Interstate 35 and 1 hour and 25 minutes drive from Newton, Kan., Arkansas City would greatly benefit from the reconnection of the Heartland Flyer.

The long-awaited, full reconnection of this corridor in America's Heartland would provide increased transportation choices and economic opportunity for rural and urban residents and businesses. With its long-term value of enhancing economic growth within the I-35 Corridor megaregion and near-term benefit for improving the Amtrak National system, this Corridor Designation is the first step in this vital 400-mile reconnection. This extension is a long-held economic development and transportation objective to re-connect numerous Oklahoma and Kansas communities north to the national network via the Southwest Chief at Newton, Kan., and points across the nation.

Restoring the Heartland Flyer between Texas and Kansas is essential to fully connect the nation's fastest-growing economic development corridor along Interstate 35 (Laredo, TX – Kansas City, MO), boasting over 40 million population, 10 million jobs, and a 28 percent growth rate. Currently, the gap in rail service between Oklahoma City and Newton must be addressed to ensure we take advantage of the opportunity to enhance our links with this enormous and growing economic super-region.

The Heartland Flyer Extension has already undergone extensive preliminary study and planning over 15 years as a group of state's infrastructure development project. In this regard, significant prerequisite preparation has been accomplished. Given the unprecedented funding levels included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we believe this is a historical moment to make a case for restoring passenger rail service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Randy Frazer", is written over a long, horizontal blue line that extends across the page.

Randy Frazer
City Manager
City of Arkansas City