



March 14, 2023

William S. Berkley, Chair
Heartland Civic Collaborative
2300 Main St., Suite 915
Kansas City, MO 64108

Scott M. Smith, Commissioner
Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission
2300 Main St., Suite 915
Kansas City, MO 64108

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

RE: Corridor proposal, Service Development Plan – Heartland Flyer Extension

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The Heartland Civic Collaborative (HCC) is fully supportive of the joint Kansas and Oklahoma application for funding a Service Development Plan (SDP) for the Heartland Flyer, which will reflect regional and FRA interest in advancing the corridor to implementation and operation.

The Kansas Department of Transportation and Oklahoma Department of Transportation intend to jointly apply for the Heartland Flyer Extension from Oklahoma City, OK to Newton, KS to be selected for the Corridor ID program, reconnecting numerous Oklahoma and Kansas communities north to the national Amtrak network via the Southwest Chief. The HCC agrees with both KDOT and ODOT in believing the Heartland Flyer Extension has a compelling case for being included in the program.

The Heartland Civic Collaborative serves as the collective business voice of the four participating metros and identifies mutually beneficial opportunities in the areas of transportation, entrepreneurship, life sciences and federal advocacy. Powered by business and civic leaders from Des Moines, Kansas City, Omaha, and St. Louis – the Heartland Civic Collaborative builds momentum through targeted civic initiatives, driving the region to reach its full potential and strengthen the Heartland’s competitiveness in the global economy.

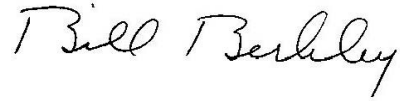
This Service Development Plan will help ensure and enhance business ecosystem connectivity from San Antonio, TX, to Wichita & Newton, KS, Chicago, Ill., to Los Angeles, CA along with many other routes, services, and connections to other regions.

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The Heartland Civic Collaborative unites four Midwest metros, to collectively strengthen the Heartland’s competitiveness in the global economy.

Again, the Heartland Civic Collaborative supports this application and looks forward to the project's results.

Sincerely,



William S. Berkley, Chair
Heartland Civic Collaborative



Scott M. Smith
MIPRC Commissioner and
Transportation Convener, Heartland Civic
Collaborative

CC:

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