



February 6, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Sedgwick County Association of Cities 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. This extension is a long-held economic development and transportation objective to re-connect numerous Oklahoma and Kansas communities to the national network via the Southwest Chief at Newton, Kansas, and points across the nation.

SCAC is a coalition of municipal officials from the twenty cities in Sedgwick County, Kansas, who seek to improve the quality of life through effective government. SCAC advocates for municipalities as the official voice of municipal government in Sedgwick County, and promotes good government through education, training and leadership.

The long-awaited, full re-connection of this corridor in America's Heartland will provide increased transportation choices and economic opportunity for rural and urban residents and businesses alike. 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, the Heartland Flyer Extension is vital.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randy White".

Mayor Randy White
City of Derby, Kansas
SCAC Chair