



City of Shawnee  
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Cityofshawnee.org

June 6, 2023

The Honorable Amit Bose  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE  
Washington, DC 20599

RE: Heartland Flyer Extension

Administrator Bose:

Extension of the Heartland Flyer is an initiative that we have supported, and we applaud Kansas and Oklahoma working together to seek Corridor Identification for an extended route from Oklahoma City, OK to Newton, KS. The current pause in the Service Development Plan gives us an opportunity to take fuller advantage of federal funds currently available, and ask for a **second frequency** for the Heartland Flyer which could **double the economic impact and tax revenue generation**.

As originally proposed the current Heartland Flyer would be extended from Oklahoma City to Newton, Kansas establishing a seamless connection between the Amtrak Texas Eagle and Southwest Chief trains that serve Fort Worth, Texas, Newton, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri. We are asking for a **second frequency** that would begin in Fort Worth in the morning and travel northward to Newton, KS arriving between 4 and 5 pm.

A **second frequency** on the full Heartland Flyer and its northward Extension would do the following:

- 1) Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas could generate enough tax revenues to fully pay for the new service like Missouri's second frequency on the River Runner
- 2) A second frequency generates more in tax revenues than costs to operate the train. That was proven when Missouri cut the second frequency losing 50% of ridership but only 35% of costs.
- 3) A single frequency allows for daytime arrival in southern Oklahoma and Texas. A second frequency would allow for daytime arrival in northern Oklahoma and Kansas.
- 4) This second frequency is consistent with Amtrak ConnectsUS 2035 Vision Statement from 2021.
- 5) A second frequency on the Heartland Flyer and its full Extension north will benefit the region, increasing ridership and service on the Missouri River Runner, the Texas Eagle and the Southwest Chief
- 6) See Executive Summary of Missouri's Economic Impact Study for evidence of above.

This vital **second connection** is essential for improving Amtrak service in the Heartland of the United States for a burgeoning mega-region that includes Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Part of this astonishing growth has occurred during the early planning and evaluation of the proposed Heartland Flyer Extension which is among the most promising proposed projects of the FRA Corridor ID program. In consideration of this major dynamic economic opportunity, we ask that the Extension north to Newton be increased to **two frequencies**.

Sincerely,

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