

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010- 02**

A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF BONNER SPRINGS, KANSAS REQUESTS THAT THE KANSAS CITY/ WICHITA/ OKLAHOMA CITY CORRIDOR BE DESIGNATED A HIGH SPEED RAIL CORRIDOR AND THAT THE KANSAS STATE LEGISLATURE APPROVE SB 409 AND HR 2552

WHEREAS, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (aka Amtrak) discontinued passenger rail service from Kansas City to Arkansas City through Wichita, Topeka and Emporia in 1979; and

WHEREAS, when discontinued the Amtrak route carried 240,000 passengers annually between Chicago, Kansas City, Wichita, Oklahoma City, Fort Worth and Houston; and

WHEREAS, Federal grants totaling \$8 billion were awarded for national High-Speed Intercity passenger rail projects in 2010 through the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail program, with another \$2.5 billion available through the Fiscal Year 2010 federal transportation budget; and

WHEREAS, The Federal Railroad Administration awarded the state of Kansas \$250,000 to commission a Service Development Plan through the competitive High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail program for a corridor including but not limited to stops in Kansas City, Topeka, Wichita, Oklahoma City, and Fort Worth; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation committed \$125,000 to match a \$125,000 Kansas Department of Transportation commitment to the before mentioned Service Development Plan during fiscal year 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas Department of Transportation commissioned an Amtrak study between Kansas City, Wichita, Oklahoma City, and Fort Worth with stops including Bonner Springs, Lawrence, Topeka, Emporia, Strong City, Newton, Wichita and Arkansas City, Kansas, which is scheduled for completion in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the University of Kansas completed a return on investment study in December 2009 showing a potential 3.2 to 1 economic benefit for the proposed Kansas City, Topeka, Wichita, and Oklahoma City, passenger rail corridor, with 150,000 passengers using the service annually; and

WHEREAS, \$50 billion is being considered for federal planning over the six year span of the federal High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail program, as administered by the Federal Railroad Administration; and

WHEREAS, United States Department of Transportation High Speed Rail Corridor designation is considered a contributing beneficial factor in federal grant awards through the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail program; and

WHEREAS, United States Department of Transportation South Central High Speed Rail Corridor designation terminates at Oklahoma City from Fort Worth and the United States Department of Transportation Chicago Hub Network High Speed Rail Corridor designation terminates at Kansas City from Chicago; and

WHEREAS, Kansas Senate Bill 409, authorizes the Kansas Department of Transportation to create a passenger rail program for the state of Kansas, and House Resolution 2552 mandates Kansas join the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission, enabling enhanced eligibility for Federal Grants for passenger rail expansion,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF BONNER SPRINGS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The City of Bonner Springs urges the United States Department of Transportation to officially designate the Kansas City, Wichita and Oklahoma City segment as an emerging High Speed Rail Corridor.

SECTION 2. The City of Bonner Springs encourages the Kansas Department of Transportation to work jointly with the Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Texas Department of Transportation, as a group of states, to officially designate the Kansas City, Wichita, Oklahoma City segment of the BNSF Railway line as a United States Department of Transportation High Speed Rail Corridor, connecting the present South Central High Speed Rail Corridor terminal at Oklahoma City with the Chicago Hub Network High Speed Rail Corridor terminal at Kansas City.

SECTION 3. The City of Bonner Springs urges the State Legislature to pass SB 409 and HR 2552 and Governor Parkinson to sign both pieces of legislation.

SECTION 4. The Northern Flyer Alliance Inc. shall, on behalf of the City of Bonner Springs distribute copies of this resolution to the Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas Governors, to the Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas Secretaries of Transportation, to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, to each member of the Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas Congressional Delegations, State of Kansas Legislators and to the Federal Railroad Administration Administrator.

Approved by the City Council and signed by the Mayor on March 8, 2010.

  
Clausie W. Smith, Mayor

Attest:

  
Rita Hoag, City Clerk

(Seal)