



October 17, 2022

The Honorable Amit Bose, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Amtrak Heartland Flyer Extension- Corridor ID Program

Dear Administrator Bose:

Please accept this letter as evidence of the support of the City of Dodge City for re-connecting passenger rail service between Oklahoma City, OK and Newton, KS. We urge that the Heartland Flyer Extension project be included in the Corridor Identification and Development Program.

For many residents of Southwest Kansas, including residents of Dodge City, Amtrak and its Southwest Chief is the only major passenger transportation service to the rest of the country. An extension of the Heartland Flyer would expand passenger transportation services and add the cities of Edmund, Guthrie, Perry, Ponca City, Arkansas City, Wichita, and Newton to the schedule thereby providing increased accessibility and mobility. Additionally, at least one independent study has been completed that determined the interest on the part of Kansas residents for extending Amtrak passenger rail service from Oklahoma City, OK to Newton, KS.

Amtrak has identified an extension of the Heartland Flyer as an economically viable train for a connection with the Southwest Chief at Newton, KS that will improve the performance of the national network. Economic analysis from the University of Kansas and the Texas Transportation Institute has shown that the extension would have a positive return on investment and a positive impact on the Kansas economy at both the state and local levels.

Advance planning, study and development for the Heartland Flyer extension has already been accomplished, and the extension currently has tremendous support including from the Kansas and Oklahoma Departments of Transportation. We thus request that the Heartland Flyer extension between Oklahoma City, OK and Newton, KS be included in Corridor ID Program.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Hernandez". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "H".

Nick Hernandez
City Manger