



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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The City of Guthrie 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.

The expansion of Amtrak's Heartland Flyer route north from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to Newton, Kansas will have a significant economic and cultural impact on Guthrie, Oklahoma and the surrounding region. Guthrie is a primary tourism destination in Oklahoma, as it's the original State Capital, and has one of the largest historic downtowns in the United States. A Guthrie stop on the Flyer route would increase the number of visitors not only to our city, but to each stop along the connecting route.


Our historic Santa Fe Depot has been restored, and already serves as a home for a successful restaurant & bar, as well as an event center. This depot is ready for Amtrak service, and is a short walking distance to all of our downtown shops, restaurants, and bed and breakfasts.

Restoring the Heartland Flyer between Texas and Kansas is an important means of fully connecting the nation's fastest-growing economic development corridor located along I-35 (Laredo, TX - Kansas City, MO) boasting over 40 million population, 10 million jobs, and a 28 percent growth rate.

A direct passenger rail connection between just the DFW area (7.5 million people) and Kansas City (2.2 million people) would open up the Guthrie tourism industry to a whole new world of economic development as a stop on the connecting route. Add in the entire I-35 Mega-region (20.2 million people), and the impact will be extraordinary for us.

In a very real sense, an expanded Heartland Flyer route will open up Guthrie and the entire United States to enhanced and expanded transportation and tourism opportunities.

Sincerely,


Steve J. Gentling
Mayor
City of Guthrie

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