



Office of the City Manager

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November 29, 2021

Governor Laura Kelly
300 SW 10th Ave., Ste. 241S
Topeka, KS 66612-1590

Dear Governor Kelly:

The City of Kansas City, MO would like to express our desire to support the efforts of Kansas and Oklahoma to extend the Heartland Flyer north to Newton, KS from Oklahoma City, OK. This connection has been shown time and again to have a return on investment of 3:1 – 4.5:1, with significant economic benefits to the region (Kansas City, MO to Dallas/ Fort Worth, TX through Wichita, KS and Oklahoma City, OK). Amtrak has recently shown an estimated annual economic impact regionally of \$64M once full buildout is complete.

- The Extension of the Heartland Flyer would strengthen an existing megaregion (Kansas City - Dallas/Fort Worth).
- It would connect Kansas City to Texas (one of fastest growing states in US).
- It would provide better connection to Universities and Colleges along the corridor, including UMKC once streetcar line is complete. Student safety and transportation cost savings being some of the greatest benefits.
- Connect workers with jobs.
- Connect people with needed services.
- Grow the economies of four states, (MO, KS, OK, TX)
- An Extension of the Heartland Flyer to Newton, KS would connect to two National Network corridors: the Southwest Chief to the north and the Texas Eagle to the south.

This connection, once complete, will provide a more direct link between Kansas City, MO and the southern United States sparking opportunities for business expansion, better family connections, better and more efficient freight movement - which will help lower the cost of getting goods to market and people to where they need to go.

This connection is critical for the region to remain globally competitive. It's the beginning, not the end of much needed multi-modal connectivity here in the Heartland.

Sincerely,



Brian Platt
City Manager

Cc: Secretary of Transportation, Julie Lorenz