



Mr. Amadeo Saenz, Jr. P.E.
Executive Director
Texas Department of Transportation
Dewitt C. Greer State Highway Building
125 E. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701

August 31, 2010

Dear Mr. Saenz:

We wish to thank the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) for your assistance in trying to secure an Amtrak Heartland Flyer stop in Krum, TX to serve the cities of Krum, Denton, and Denton County. We understand that Amtrak has complied with TxDOT's request for a feasibility study of adding a train stop in Krum, TX, and has acknowledged that a rail station in Krum is acceptable to them. This is great news!

We recently found out that the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is in the initial phase of a *Service Development Plan* (SDP) study to qualify for future High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) program funding. The study is being performed between Fort Worth – Oklahoma City – Wichita – Kansas City. This route includes rail infrastructure passing through downtown Krum. The study will build upon the Amtrak feasibility study, creating a more precise operating/capital funding plan in addition to a business model.

We think there is an opportunity to insert a Krum train stop into the KDOT SDP effort. We therefore are asking TxDOT to seize this opportunity, and contact KDOT, and request that they expand the scope of their study to incorporate a Krum train stop within the SDP.

Please take a moment to consider the benefits of a potential Krum rail station stop.

- The Krum and Denton city centers are separated by only 9.5 miles and a Krum rail station would serve the greater Denton County area.
- Denton County population is rapidly growing, and already comprises the third largest on the proposed rail route behind only Tarrant County, TX and Oklahoma County, OK.
- Norman, OK with a population demographic similar to that of Denton handles on average 12,000 passengers annually.
- The sixty-five miles separating the Gainesville and Fort Worth stops represent the longest distance covered on the route without a stop.
- The shortest route distance is fifteen miles between Norman, OK and Purcell, OK.

- The state of Texas was awarded \$4 million by the FRA through a FY-2010 HSIPR grant in January to increase speed limits between the Oklahoma line and Fort Worth. Once rail infrastructure upgrades are complete total transit time for the Heartland Flyer will be shorter, thus allowing additional time for a short station stop at Krum.

A Krum rail station stop is vitally important to the City of Krum, the City of Denton, and the greater Denton County area. The rail station would serve as an alternative solution to growing intercity transportation challenges. The stop would provide greater economic development opportunities, especially in Krum, as shown in numerous studies conducted over the past decade. Forecasts indicate that sales tax revenues in Krum would increase by approximately 10% in the first year of operation. The station would increase visitor traffic to downtown Krum, thus translating into business opportunities for restaurant and retail providers.

We look forward to additional updates as this important transportation option is evaluated for the Denton County Area.

Sincerely,



Andy Eads
Denton County Commissioner, Precinct 4



Terri Wilson
Mayor, City of Krum



Mark A. Burroughs
Mayor, City of Denton

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