

600 Broadway, Suite 200
Kansas City, Missouri 64105-1659

816-474-4240
816-421-7758 FAX
marcinfo@marc.org
www.marc.org



December 7, 2022

The Honorable Amit Bose, Administrator
c/o Peter Schwartz, Chief, Project Engineering and Transportation Planning Division
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Amtrak Heartland Flyer Extension-Corridor Identification Designation docket number
FRA -2022-0031

Dear Administrator Bose:

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), Council of Governments and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the bi-state Kansas City region, would like to express support for re-connecting passenger rail service between Oklahoma City, OK and Newton, KS. This connection helps to ensure the I-35 corridor from Ft. Worth, TX to Newton is included in the Corridor Development Plan. "Connected KC 2050", the region's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), communicates an importance in reconnecting rail service between Oklahoma City and Kansas City.

The re-connection of passenger rail service in this corridor helps to create a more efficient transportation network. An efficient transportation network with intercity connections provides increased transportation choices and economic opportunity and vitality for rural and urban residents and businesses. Strong intercity connections encourage regional economic vitality by providing businesses with access to external markets and attracting regional visitors. This extension satisfies an objective of re-connecting numerous Oklahoma and Kansas communities to the Kansas City metro.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Warm".

David A. Warm
Executive Director

Copy: Northern Flyer Alliance, Inc.

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