



Midwest Interstate
Passenger Rail
Commission

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*Bringing Together
State Leaders from
Across the Region
to Advocate
for Passenger Rail
Improvements*

The Midwest Interstate
Passenger Rail Commission is
an eight-state interstate
compact commission that
promotes, coordinates and
supports regional
improvements to passenger
rail service. Our member
states include
Illinois, Indiana, Kansas,
Michigan, Minnesota,
Missouri, North Dakota and
Wisconsin.



March 14, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC) strongly supports the Kansas Department of Transportation, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and Texas Department of Transportation's joint application for the *Heartland Flyer Extension*. MIPRC asks that it be accepted into the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) Program.

The extension of the current *Heartland Flyer* service to Newton, Kansas via Wichita will establish a key north-south passenger rail connection to the Midwest, while also bringing passenger rail service to Kansas' largest city and one of the Midwest's most populous cities for the first time in over 40 years. In addition, the extension will also connect the *Heartland Flyer* to the *Southwest Chief*, allowing riders in Texas and Oklahoma to connect to this long-distance service to Kansas City and Chicago to the east, as well as additional locations to the west.

As complements to this application, MIPRC also supports:

- extending the *Heartland Flyer* to Kansas City, which would allow for additional connections to/from the Midwest, as well as add additional frequencies of service to Kansas' capital city, Topeka, and Lawrence, home to the University of Kansas.
- restoration of the long-distance *Lone Star* route, which would establish an important route north-south for the western part of the Midwest overall, provide an important backbone of service for the *Heartland Flyer*, and connect to Houston, which could be an important source of new ridership.

We ask that the FRA accept the *Heartland Flyer Extension* joint application into this inaugural round of the Corridor ID Program, and look forward to its multiple benefits for our Midwestern population.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Laura Kliewer
MIPRC Director