



The Transportation Policy Body for the North Central Texas Council of Governments
(Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region)

September 24, 2021

Ms. Deborah Fischer Stout
President
Northern Flyer Alliance, Inc.
876 North Diane Drive
Olathe, KS 66061

Dear Ms. Stout:

Thank you for your recent request of the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) to support your efforts in extending and improving the Amtrak Heartland Flyer service currently operating between Fort Worth, Texas and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Regional Transportation Council (RTC), policy board of NCTCOG in its role as the regional Metropolitan Planning Organization, support the proposed improvements to the Heartland Flyer as part of a national, interconnected rail system. This support has been shown for years in the region's metropolitan transportation plan, *Mobility 2045*, as well as through previous action in December 2007 to unanimously support the cities of Denton and Krum in their development of a new station on this Amtrak line, which we understand is a part of the improvements currently being considered for this corridor. Please see the enclosed January 2008 letter from the RTC to the City of Denton detailing this support.

The recommendations and policies in *Mobility 2045: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas* support service expansion in the passenger rail transportation networks throughout the region, including Amtrak's Heartland Flyer service. This service would serve a critical link connecting the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan region to Oklahoma City and beyond.

Additionally, through previous coordination, a Memorandum of Understanding was developed between the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments and NCTCOG to cooperatively plan high-speed rail between the two regions. This partnership led to a successful study by the Texas Department of Transportation, entitled Texas-Oklahoma Passenger Rail Study, which analyzed future high and higher speed passenger rail corridors between the two states. This partnership and shared vision between the two regions serve as a common foundation to support improvements to the Amtrak's Heartland Flyer as proposed.

If you have any questions regarding the RTC's position on high-speed rail planning in the North Central Texas region or related to this letter of support for Amtrak improvements along the Heartland Flyer route, please contact me at (817) 695-9241.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Morris". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael Morris, P.E.
Director of Transportation
North Central Texas Council of Governments

BW:cmg
Enclosure



Regional Transportation Council
The Transportation Policy Body for the North Central Texas Council of Governments
(Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region)



January 9, 2008

Mr. Mark Nelson
Chief Transportation Officer
City of Denton
215 East McKinney
Denton, TX 76201

Dear Mr. Nelson:

On December 13, 2007, the Regional Transportation Council (RTC) unanimously approved support to the City of Denton and the City of Krum in their development of a new Amtrak rail station. The RTC agrees that this additional station would provide a northern access point to the Amtrak system and would fill a gap in service not covered by the other stations in Dallas, Fort Worth, or Cleburne.

Additionally, recommendations made in Mobility 2030: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Dallas-Fort Worth Area, support inter-regional passenger rail service like that provided by Amtrak's Texas Eagle and Heartland Flyer routes. The pursuance of additional Amtrak stations in the region is consistent with the current metropolitan transportation plan.

You can count on the support of the RTC during your work to pursue this station location with Amtrak. If any assistance in this effort is needed, please contact Michael Morris at (817) 695-9240.

Sincerely,

T. Oscar Trevino Jr., P.E.
Chair, Regional Transportation Council
Mayor, City of North Richland Hills

CE:cmg