

RESOLUTION NO. G-1248

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AMTRAK PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION IN KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA

WHEREAS, Newton Kansas is a proud rail community with history dating back to the founding of the community in 1871 and incorporation in 1872; and

WHEREAS, Newton is proud to be the home of the east-west interchange of the AMTRAK Southwest Chief long distance service line at the Historic Newton Depot; and

WHEREAS, in the 1960's and 1970's between 50 and 60 passenger trains interchanged at the Newton Historic Depot, which was designed to accommodate extensive numbers of passengers; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 the Southwest Chief served approximately 340,000 passengers; and

WHEREAS, AMTRAK has released the AMTRAK CONNECTS US plan to grow rail service across America; and

WHEREAS, this plan identifies expansion and enhancement of corridor routes that offers economically viable, frequent, reliable and sustainable passenger train service; and

WHEREAS, the plan proposes adding 160 additional communities to the national rail network, including extension of the Heartland Flyer line from Oklahoma City, through Wichita, to Newton where it will intersect with the Southwest Chief, serving numerous other cities along the route in Kansas and Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak currently has the national capabilities and expertise in place to operate these new routes; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak has proposed 100% funding for the capital costs required for the redevelopment of this corridor, currently included in the federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act; and

WHEREAS, the Kansas and Oklahoma Departments of Transportation are currently updating State Rail Service Plans, including freight and passenger rail, and both states House and Senates have adopted bills in support of the Heartland Flyer expansion; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Richard E. Stinnett, Mayor of the City of Newton, express the City of Newton's support for the continuation of the Southwest Chief and expansion of the Heartland Flyer line.

APPROVED AND PASSED by the Governing Body of the City of Newton, Kansas, this 13th day of July, 2021.


Richard E. Stinnett, Mayor

ATTEST:


Denise R. Duerksen, City Clerk