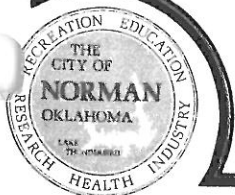


A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA,  
EXTENDING SUPPORT FOR NEW  
TRANSIT AND RAIL OPTIONS AND  
INTEGRATING OKLAHOMA INTO THE  
NATIONAL SYSTEM.

- § 1. WHEREAS, around the country, including central Oklahoma, communities and states are struggling with automobile congestion, mounting costs to maintain and expand highways, demands from citizens for alternative ways to move around, the needs of businesses for timely deliveries, and rising costs of fuel as well as the health effects of air pollution; and
- § 2. WHEREAS, congestion on the highways in Oklahoma have been impacted by NAFTA truck traffic and we cannot keep up with maintenance of our highways and bridge infrastructures, nor is there room or money enough to pave our way out of congestion problems; and
- § 3. WHEREAS, most states have acknowledged that rail systems and regional mass transit are the best way to deal with increases in congestion and costs of fuel; and
- § 4. WHEREAS, ridership on new rail and bus mass transit systems in other metro areas have greatly exceeded expectations, showing citizens' enthusiasm for such options and driving the eagerness of local governments to have their communities connected to the new systems; and
- § 5. WHEREAS the Heartland Flyer has been successful far beyond projections and, even though on a dead end line, has shown significant public benefits WHEREAS, Legislators and Mayors in Oklahoma and Kansas are interested in expanding passenger rail service between the states, and
- § 6. WHEREAS, Legislators and Mayors in Oklahoma and Kansas are interested in expanding passenger rail service between the states; and
- § 7. WHEREAS, this part of the country is already far behind many other areas in providing transportation efficiencies and options; and
- § 8. WHEREAS, our central location in the region is an asset, but one that we can only take full advantage of if all our transportation systems are integrated with regional and national systems; and
- § 9. WHEREAS, the timeframe for transportation planning and construction is long anyway and we must not leave our citizens and businesses with no options in a quickly changing world; and
- § 10. WHEREAS, Oklahoma currently receives just 40 percent of the gasoline excise tax its citizens pay into the Federal Highway Trust Fund transit account; and



- § 11. WHEREAS, Oklahoma City and Tulsa have issued their 2007 Joint Legislative Agenda acknowledging that “the long term futures of Oklahoma City, Tulsa, and every municipality in the state, large and small, must include enhanced mass transit,” and that “Oklahoma City and Tulsa metro areas are far behind most major American cities in confronting this issue (regional mass transit) and cannot catch up without strong support of the state;” and
- § 12. WHEREAS, Norman is on record as supporting the need for an integrated rail system to supplement our highways and roads; and
- § 13. WHEREAS, Norman citizens throughout this year’s lengthy Community Dialogue process have asked for more transportation alternatives; and
- § 14. WHEREAS, the City of Norman has signed the Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement committing to diminish our carbon footprint and increase our sustainability by working with others to maximize wise use of resources; and
- § 15. WHEREAS, Norman, as a community, and we, as elected leaders. know these things and are compelled to act for our long term benefit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORMAN, OKLAHOMA:

- § 16. That the City of Norman thanks the State Legislature for their continued support of the Heartland Flyer and for the support of the Transit Revolving Fund which provides \$5.75 million for public transportation in Oklahoma, and asks the Mayor to work with Oklahoma City Mayor Mick Cornett, Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor, other Mayors, and the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments to develop and articulate a strong multi-modal transportation vision for our region, to work with interested Mayors in Oklahoma and Kansas to explore the possibility of extending the Heartland Flyer passenger rail service northward, and asks the Governor and the Legislature to develop and implement a new direction in transportation policy planning, to include a regional passenger rail solution truly networked into the national system, and to grant local governments new funding sources to provide transit services.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of August, 2007.

  
Mayor

ATTEST:

  
City Clerk