



**THE CITY OF  
OKLAHOMA CITY**

**Mayor David Holt**

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The City of Oklahoma City is pleased to offer strong support for the joint application of the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, and the Texas Department of Transportation for the Heartland Flyer Extension to be accepted into the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) Program.

This long-awaited, full reconnection of this corridor in America's Heartland would provide increased transportation choices and economic opportunity for rural and urban residents and businesses alike. With its long-term value of enhancing economic growth within the I-35 Corridor megaregion, and near-term benefit for improving the Amtrak National system, this Corridor Designation is the first step in this vital 400-mile reconnection.

Restoring the Heartland Flyer between Texas and Kansas is also an important means of fully connecting the nation's fastest-growing economic development corridor located along Interstate 35 (Laredo, TX – Kansas City, MO), boasting over 40 million people, 10 million jobs, and a 28 percent growth rate. The current gap in rail service between Oklahoma City and Newton must be addressed to ensure we take advantage of the opportunity to enhance our links with this enormous and growing economic super-region.

Given the unprecedented funding levels included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, this is a historic opportunity to make the case for restoring passenger rail service. While Wichita has grown to be the 48<sup>th</sup>-largest city in the nation, Oklahoma City has grown to the 20<sup>th</sup>-largest and is one of six cities in the nation to have grown by more than 100,000 residents in the last decade. This level of growth justifies increased transportation options. Moreover, as a region with many rural areas and regional cities, we believe having the ability to better connect urban, suburban and rural Kansas and Oklahoma is critically important.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Holt".

David Holt  
Mayor