

3 Mayor Letter of Support for Passenger Rail Kansas City, Wichita, Oklahoma City



A letter of support from the three Mayors of Kansas City, Wichita and Oklahoma City in support of connecting their cities via passenger rail, closing the 200 mile service gap that exists while recognizing the economic potential in doing so as part of I-35 Megapolitan area in which they reside.

City of Kansas City, Mayor Sly James
 City of Wichita, Mayor Carl Brewer
 City of Oklahoma City, Mayor Mick Cornett



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We, the three Mayors of the major population centers of Oklahoma City, Wichita and Kansas City, Missouri, recognize the essential value of passenger rail service linking our communities.

As critical population centers along the “megapolitan” corridor marked by Interstate 35 from San Antonio to Kansas City, we share common interests that define our interdependent relationship. We acknowledge the importance of the economic, social, governmental and cultural bonds that reflect our megapolitan status.

The fulfillment of our ultimate economic success is seriously hampered by the passenger rail “service gap” between Oklahoma City and Wichita. The absence of this vital link is a crucial deficiency in a transportation system anchored by Interstate 35 from San Antonio to Kansas City.

Our support for expanded passenger rail service along the I-35 corridor derives from recognition of the changing business world, and the positive economic impact of rail travel. Communication technology over the past decade has revolutionized business practices and enhanced the business value of passenger rail. Rail passengers can convert travel time to productive business activity, unlike auto or airline passengers.

Demographic changes have also intensified interest in passenger rail. Those changes include:

- An aging population that sees value in passenger rail.
- A youthful population, including our university students, that sees passenger rail as a viable transportation alternative to the ever rising insurance and fuel costs of automobile travel.
- A population more aware of the air pollution impacts of automobile travel.

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We are convinced that passenger rail will be a key component in the economic future of our communities, and not simply a means of transporting a person from one location to another. We also believe that an enhanced passenger rail system will result in greater volume for freight rail traffic, adding jobs and building capacity into our transportation infrastructure.

In summary, we strongly encourage the States of Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas to work together to promote, plan, and develop a unified passenger rail service that allows our megapolitan area to reach its economic potential.

Signed,

Mayor Sly James, Kansas City, Missouri

Mayor Carl Brewer, Wichita, Kansas

Mayor Mick Cornett, Oklahoma City