

**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE EXISTING HEARTLAND FLYER RAIL SERVICE AND THE EXPANSION OF AMTRAK PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE IN OKLAHOMA AND KANSAS.**

**WHEREAS**, passenger rail service was re-established between Oklahoma City and Fort Worth, Texas on June 15, 1999 and ended a 20-year absence of passenger train service between Oklahoma City and North Texas; and

**WHEREAS**, both the state and federal legislative agendas for The City of Oklahoma City have included support for passenger rail in Oklahoma including continuation of the existing Heartland Flyer and potential expansion to other cities; and

**WHEREAS**, in June of 2021 Amtrak released the Amtrak Connects US plan to develop and grow rail service across America; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of this plan, a passenger rail connection would extend north from Oklahoma City to Newton, Kansas; and

**WHEREAS**, with the enactment of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in November 2021 at the federal level, there is an excellent opportunity to bring this connection to fruition; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2035 Vision is part of the Amtrak Connects US plan and identifies expansion and enhancement of corridor routes that offers economically viable, frequent, reliable and sustainable passenger train service; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2035 Vision proposes adding 160 additional communities to the national rail network; and

**WHEREAS**, an organization called the Northern Flyer Alliance is working to create the intercity passenger rail expansion between Fort Worth and Kansas City through Oklahoma City and Wichita; and

**WHEREAS**, the Northern Flyer Alliance has been working with cities along the potential route and with the state legislatures in Kansas and Oklahoma to build support for this project; and

**WHEREAS**, AMTRAK has identified an extension of the Heartland Flyer as an economically viable train for a connection with the Southwest Chief at Newton, Kansas that will improve the performance of both the Heartland Flyer and the national network; and

**WHEREAS**, economic analysis from Kansas University and Texas Transportation Institute have shown that an extension of the Heartland Flyer would have a positive return on investment and a positive impact on the Oklahoma and Kansas economies at both the state and local levels; and

**WHEREAS**, an extension of the Heartland Flyer between Oklahoma City and Newton, Kansas would add the cities of Edmond, Guthrie, Perry, Ponca City, Arkansas City, Wichita and Newton to the passenger rail schedule; and

**WHEREAS**, advance planning, study and development for this extension has already been accomplished; and

**WHEREAS**, the Departments of Transportation of Oklahoma and Kansas are currently updating State Rail Plans; and

**WHEREAS**, the Oklahoma Legislature passed HCR 1003 in 2021 to support a Heartland Flyer Extension; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kansas State Senate passed SR 1716 and the Kansas State House passed HR 6017 to support the Heartland Flyer Extension; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA) has given decision- making authority to the Federal Railroad Administration as it pertains to the development of new passenger rail corridors; and

**WHEREAS**, \$66 billion has been targeted at rail infrastructure and transportation in the IIJA; and

**WHEREAS**, this is an unprecedented opportunity to expand passenger rail in Oklahoma and connect to the national network.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of The City of Oklahoma City that:

1. The City of Oklahoma City understands that federal funding for the Extension of Amtrak's Heartland Flyer between Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to Newton, Kansas is available in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.
2. The City of Oklahoma City thanks Congress for passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 that includes funding for new passenger rail corridors.

3. The City of Oklahoma City supports legislation, if necessary, to secure a state match for federal funding for Oklahoma's portion of the Extension of the Heartland Flyer to Newton, KS.

**APPROVED** by the Council of the City of Oklahoma City and **SIGNED** by the Mayor this 12th day of April, 2022.

*David Holt*

MAYOR

**ATTEST:**

*Amy K. Simpson*  
CITY CLERK



**REVIEWED** for form and legality.

*Karen K. McDevitt*  
Assistant Municipal Counselor