



The Transportation Policy Body for the North Central Texas Council of Governments  
(Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth Region)

March 9, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Regional Transportation Council (RTC), the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Dallas-Fort Worth area, and the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), I am pleased to offer support for the Kansas Department of Transportation, Oklahoma Department of Transportation and Texas Department of Transportation's joint application for the Heartland Flyer Extension for the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) Program.

The RTC supports the Heartland Flyer as part of a national, interconnected rail system. The recommendations and policies in the region's long-range transportation plan, [Mobility 2045: The Metropolitan Transportation Plan for North Central Texas – 2022 Update](#), support service expansion in the passenger rail transportation networks throughout the region, including Amtrak's Heartland Flyer service. This service would serve a critical link connecting the Dallas-Fort Worth metropolitan region to Kansas, Oklahoma, and beyond. Restoring the Heartland Flyer between Texas and Kansas is an important means of fully connecting the nation's fastest-growing economic development corridor located along Interstate Highway 35 (Laredo, TX to Kansas City, MO) boasting over 40 million in population, 10 million jobs, and a 28 percent growth rate.

Additionally, through previous coordination, a Memorandum of Understanding was developed between the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments and NCTCOG to cooperatively plan high-speed rail between the two regions. This partnership led to a successful study by the Texas Department of Transportation, entitled Texas-Oklahoma Passenger Rail Study, which analyzed future high and higher speed passenger rail corridors between the two states. This partnership and shared vision between the two regions serve as a common foundation to support improvements to the Amtrak's Heartland Flyer as proposed.

Again, the RTC supports the Heartland Flyer Extension for the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor ID Program. If you have any questions, please contact me or Michael Morris, P.E., Director of Transportation for NCTCOG at (817) 695-9241 or [mmorris@nctcog.org](mailto:mmorris@nctcog.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duncan Webb", written over a white background.

Duncan Webb, Chair  
Regional Transportation Council  
Commissioner, Collin County

LB:

cc: Michael Morris, P.E., Director of Transportation, NCTCOG

P.O. Box 5888 • Arlington, Texas 76005-5888 • (817) 695-9240 • FAX (817) 640-3028  
<http://www.nctcog.org/trans>