

**RESOLUTION 2021-13**

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS FOR EXPANSION OF AMTRAK PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE IN OKLAHOMA AND KANSAS**

**WHEREAS**, AMTRAK has released the AMTRAK CONNECTS US plan to grow rail service across America, and

**WHEREAS**, this 2035 VISION 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**, Amtrak currently has the national capabilities and expertise in place to operate these new routes, 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 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 Kansas economy at both the state and local levels, and,

**WHEREAS**, an Extension of the Heartland Flyer between Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Newton, Kansas would add the cities of Edmund, Guthrie, Perry, Ponca City, Arkansas City, Wichita and Newton to the schedule, and,

**WHEREAS**, the development of a Northern Flyer train between Fort Worth, Texas and Kansas City, Missouri would have a daytime stop in Newton, Kansas and qualify as a second round trip frequency for the route, and,

**WHEREAS**, advance planning, study and development has already been accomplished, and,

**WHEREAS**, Amtrak has proposed 100% funding for the capital costs required for new corridor development, and,

**WHEREAS**, at least one independent study has been completed that determined the interest on the part of Kansas citizens for extending Amtrak passenger rail service from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to Newton, Kansas; and,

**WHEREAS**, Departments of Transportation in Kansas and Oklahoma require evidence of community commitment for passenger rail service improvements, and,

**WHEREAS**, Amtrak has stated the urgent need in Congressional offices of demonstrated community desire of federally funded passenger rail service to be included in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Act, and,

**WHEREAS**, the Departments of Transportation of Kansas and Oklahoma are currently updating State Rail Plans, and the Kansas Department of Transportation is updating a Service Development Plan for passenger rail, and, developing a Long Range Transportation Plan, and,

**WHEREAS**, the Kansas State Senate passed SR 1767 supporting a Heartland Flyer Extension, and a Northern Flyer second frequency, and fully funded maintenance of the Southwest Chief in 2021, and,

**WHEREAS**, the Kansas State House of Representatives passed 6017 supporting a Heartland Flyer Extension, a Northern Flyer second frequency, and fully funded maintenance of the Southwest Chief in 2021, and

**WHEREAS**, the Oklahoma State Senate and House of Representatives passed HCR 1003 supporting a Heartland Flyer Extension, a Northern Flyer second frequency, and fully funded maintenance of the Southwest Chief in 2021, and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE AFORESTATED PREMISES, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS that;

**SECTION ONE: COMMISSIONERS OF HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS** endorses the inclusion of federal funding for the Extension of Amtrak’s Heartland Flyer between Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to Newton, Kansas to be included in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill.

**SECTION TWO: COMMISSIONERS OF HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS** endorses federal funding for the Amtrak Northern Flyer second frequency between Kansas City, Missouri and Fort Worth, Texas to be included in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill.

**SECTION THREE: COMMISSIONERS OF HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS** endorses federal funding for full maintenance of the Southwest Chief to be included in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill.

**SECTION FOUR: COMMISSIONERS OF HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS** urges full Congressional funding and passage of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill that includes funding for Amtrak’s Vision 2035.

**SECTION FIVE:** COMMISSIONERS OF HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS appeals for clearly identified inclusion of the Heartland Flyer Extension, Northern Flyer development and a fully funded Southwest Chief in the Kansas State Rail Plan, and the Kansas 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan.

**SECTION SIX:** COMMISSIONERS OF HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS urges the Kansas Department of Transportation to form a multi-state planning and development task force specifically for the build-out of this corridor.

**SECTION SEVEN:** This Resolution will be in full force and effect from its date of passage by the COMMISSIONERS OF HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE SENT TO:

Representative Ron Estes  
Senator Roger Marshall  
Senator Jerry Moran  
Senator Carolyn McGinn  
Representative Avery Anderson  
Representative Stephen Owens  
Mr. Derrick James, Amtrak Government Affairs – Midwest Region  
Mr. Todd Stennis, Amtrak Government Affairs – South Region  
Governor Laura Kelly  
Secretary of Transportation, Kansas Julie Lorenz  
Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg

**PASSED AND RESOLVED:** By the COMMISSIONERS OF HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of August, 2021



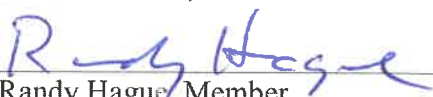
ATTEST:

  
Rick Piepho, County Clerk

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF HARVEY COUNTY, KANSAS**

  
George A. Westfall, Chairperson

  
Don Schroeder, Member

  
Randy Hague, Member

