

Resolution No. 7376

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF LAWRENCE 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 and Newton 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 and Kansas City would 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 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 GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF LAWRENCE, KANSAS that;

SECTION ONE: THE CITY OF LAWRENCE 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: THE CITY OF LAWRENCE endorses federal funding for the Amtrak Northern Flyer second frequency between Kansas City and Fort Worth to be included in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill.

SECTION THREE: THE CITY OF LAWRENCE endorses federal funding for full maintenance of the Southwest Chief to be included in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill.

SECTION FOUR: THE CITY OF LAWRENCE urges full Congressional funding and passage of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill that includes funding for Amtrak's Vision 2035.

SECTION FIVE: THE CITY OF LAWRENCE appeals for clearly identified inclusion of Heartland Flyer Extension and Northern Flyer development in the Kansas State Rail Plan, and the Kansas 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan.

SECTION SIX: THE CITY OF LAWRENCE 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 City Commission of the City of Lawrence, Kansas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT COPIES OF THIS RESOLUTION SHALL BE SENT TO:

Representative Jake LaTurner
Senator Roger Marshall
Senator Jerry Moran
Senator Marci Francisco
Representative Dennis Highberger
Representative Barbara Ballard
Representative Mike Amyx
Mr. Derrick James, Amtrak Government Affairs – Midwest Region
Mr. Todd Stennis, Amtrak Government Affairs – South Region
Governor Laura Kelly
Secretary of Transportation Julie Lorenz
Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg

PASSED AND RESOLVED: By the Governing Body of the City of Lawrence, Kansas this 1st day of June, 2021.



Bradley R. Finkeldei

Bradley R. Finkeldei, Mayor

OFFICIAL SEAL

Sherry Riedemann

Sherry Riedemann, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Toni R. Wheeler

Toni R. Wheeler, City Attorney