

# Shawnee, Kansas

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June 15, 2022

The Honorable Amit Bose, Administrator  
c/o Peter Schwartz, Chief, Project Engineering and Transportation Planning Division  
Federal Railroad Administration  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Amtrak Heartland Flyer Extension-Corridor Identification Designation docket number FRA - 2022-0031

Dear Administrator Bose:

The City of Shawnee, Kansas is contacting you to express our support for re-connecting passenger rail service between Oklahoma City, OK and Newton, KS and **ensure the I-35 corridor from Ft. Worth, TX to Newton is included in the Corridor Development Plan**. This extension is a long-held regional economic development and transportation objective to re-connect numerous Oklahoma and Kansas communities north to the national network via the Southwest Chief at Newton, Kansas, and points across the nation.

The City of Shawnee, Kansas is voluntarily joining other member governments to advocate for the long-awaited, full re-connection of this corridor in America's Heartland which would provide increased transportation choices and economic opportunity for rural and urban residents and businesses alike, enhancing the regional economy. With its long-term value of enhancing economic growth within the I-35 Corridor megaregion, and near-term benefit for improving the Amtrak National system, this Corridor Designation is the first step in this vital 400-mile re-connection. **To further demonstrate our support, please note the attached Resolution from 2021.**

Restoring the Heartland Flyer between Texas and Kansas is also an important means of fully connecting the nation's fastest-growing economic development corridor located along Interstate 35 (Laredo, TX – Kansas City, MO) boasting over 40 million population, 10 million jobs, and a 28 percent growth rate. Currently, the gap in rail service between Oklahoma City and Newton must be addressed to ensure we take advantage of the opportunity to enhance our links with this enormous and growing economic super-region. Wichita has grown to the 48th largest city in the nation and Oklahoma City has grown to the 22nd and is one of the six cities in the nation to have grown by more than 100,000 residents in the last decade.

This level of growth justifies increased transportation options. Moreover, as a region with many rural areas and regional cities, we believe having the ability to better connect urban, suburban and rural Kansas and Oklahoma is critically important. Many of these communities would benefit from the re-development of train depots and downtown areas, and the option for residents to use passenger rail to travel for business, work, pleasure, and to medical appointments. We respectfully request Designated Corridor Identification from Fort Worth, Texas to Newton, Kansas.

Respectfully,



Nolan Sunderman

City Manager

City of Shawnee, Kansas

Enclosure

# Shawnee, Kansas

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Governor Laura Kelly

Governor Kevin Stitt

Secretary Julie Lorenz, Kansas Department of Transportation Secretary

Tim Gatz, Oklahoma Department of Transportation

Derrick James & Todd Stennis, Amtrak

**CITY OF SHAWNEE**

**RESOLUTION NO. 1947**

**A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SHAWNEE FOR EXPANSION OF AMTRAK PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE IN OKLAHOMA AND KANSAS THROUGH THE EXPANSION OF THE HEARTLAND FLYER ROUTE FROM OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, TO NEWTON, KANSAS.**

**WHEREAS**, Amtrak has released the Amtrak Connects Us plan to grow rail service across America. This 2035 VISION identifies expansion and enhancement of corridor routes that offers economically viable, frequent, reliable and sustainable passenger train service. The 2035 Vision proposes adding 160 additional communities to the national rail network; 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**, the state House's and Senate's in Oklahoma and Kansas have passed similar resolutions of support for the expansion of Amtrak services.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF SHAWNEE, KANSAS, AS FOLLOWS:**

**PARAGRAPH 1.** The City of Shawnee supports the inclusion of full federal funding for the complete implementation and development of the Heartland Flyer Extension from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Newton, Kansas, as well as a second frequency directly connecting Kansas City, Missouri, and Fort Worth, Texas, in the upcoming reauthorization of the Surface Transportation Act.

**PARAGRAPH 2.** That the City Clerk shall send enrolled copies of this resolution to the Governor of Kansas, the Governor of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation, the Kansas Secretary of Transportation, each member of the Kansas Congressional delegation and the U.S. Secretary of Transportation.

*This portion is intentionally blank.*

ADOPTED by the Governing Body this 14th day of June, 2021.

APPROVED AND SIGNED by the Mayor this 14th day of June, 2021

CITY OF SHAWNEE, KANSAS

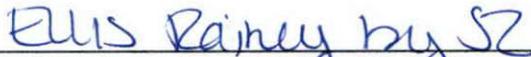


By:   
Michelle Distler, Mayor

ATTEST:

By:   
Stephanie Zaldivar, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By:   
M. Ellis Rainey, II City Attorney