

RESOLUTION NO. 9228

A RESOLUTION introduced by City Manager Brent Trout supporting the 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 the 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

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48 WHEREAS, the Departments of Transportation in Kansas and Oklahoma require
49 evidence of community commitment for passenger rail service
50 improvements, and

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

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

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

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

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70 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma State Senate and House of Representatives passed HCR
71 1003 supporting a Heartland Flyer Extension, a Northern Flyer
72 second frequency, and fully funded maintenance of the Southwest
73 Chief in 2021.

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75 WHEREAS, Amtrak eliminated the ticket agent, also called the customer service
76 representative from Topeka in 2018, and such elimination has
77 reduced important services for patrons at the Topeka station.

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79 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE

80 CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS, that:

81 SECTION ONE: THE CITY OF TOPEKA endorses the inclusion of federal funding
82 for the Extension of Amtrak's Heartland Flyer between Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to
83 Newton, Kansas to be included in the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill.

84 SECTION TWO: THE CITY OF TOPEKA endorses federal funding for the Amtrak
85 Northern Flyer second frequency between Kansas City and Fort Worth to be included in

86 the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill.

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

90 SECTION FOUR: THE CITY OF TOPEKA urges full Congressional funding and
91 passage of the Surface Transportation Reauthorization Bill that includes funding for
92 Amtrak’s Vision 2035.

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

96 SECTION SIX: THE CITY OF TOPEKA urges the Kansas Department of
97 Transportation to form a multi-state planning and development task force specifically for
98 the build-out of this corridor.

99 SECTION SEVEN: The City of Topeka urges Amtrak to restore to the Topeka
100 station a full-time customer services representatives to serve the traveling public.

101 SECTION EIGHT: This Resolution will be in full force and effect from its date of
102 passage by the Governing Body of The CITY OF TOPEKA, Kansas.

103 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CITY CLERK WILL DISTRIBUTE THIS
104 RESOLUTION TO ALL OF KANSAS’S ELECTED STATE AND FEDERAL
105 REPRESENTATIVES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- Representative Jake La Turner
- Senator Roger Marshall
- Senator Jerry Moran
- Representative Jesse Borjon
- Representative Virgil Weigel
- Representative Jim Gartner

- Senator Kristen O’Shea
- Senator Rick Kloos
- Senator Brenda Dietrich
- Senator John Alcala
- Representative Fred Patton
- 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

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107 ADOPTED and APPROVED by the Governing Body on June 8, 2021.

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CITY OF TOPEKA, KANSAS

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Michelle De La Isla, Mayor

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113 ATTEST:

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Brenda Younger, City Clerk