

Heartland Flyer Extension

Good Morning

My name is John Anderson and I come here today as a true train lover. For some time, the Southwest Chief, has traveled from Chicago to Kansas City and down to Newton. But then it heads off to Los Angeles and further west. AMTRAK has long had the vision of extending the Heartland Flyer route to include more of Kansas. This project has also been among the ones selected and favored by the Federal Railroad Administration. The extension would go from Newton down to Wichita and then to Ark City before entering Oklahoma and continuing on to Dallas/Ft. Worth. With this route an entire section of Kansas that is now without rail service would enable locals to enjoy the chance to travel through Oklahoma and to Dallas/Ft. Worth by means other than a car. This opportunity would be especially attractive to college students and senior citizens. Also, travelers coming from the north would have the chance to spend some money at these Kansas destinations.

Last December the Governor announced her support for the Heartland Flyer Extension stating it would benefit Kansas both economically and from a public convenience standpoint. The total cost for the Kansas leg is projected at \$32M with the Federal Government paying 80%. Kansas' share would be only \$6.4M. The total cost for Oklahoma would be \$93M. It's 20% would equal \$18.6M. We all know there is no such thing as "free" money from the federal government. But at the same time the construction of most major city and state projects would not be a reality without government assistance. For example, Kansas City would not have a new airport and the Bond Bridge project would not be possible without help. The Heartland Flyer Extension is another good example, but we need your help to make it a reality.

Thank you!

John Anderson, Johnson County resident