



TESTIMONY

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

SB 349

By: Matthew C. Allen, City Manager, City of Garden City, KS
On behalf of the City of Garden City
February 7, 2024

Support

Chairman Petersen and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the City of Garden City in support of SB 349.

Preserving existing passenger rail service is a part of the City of Garden City's legislative policy and we believe the Heartland Flyer Extension benefits existing long-distance passenger rail service through the state by opening up new destinations and markets for those communities, like Garden City, already served by the Southwest Chief.

The history of the State of Kansas is to work well with neighboring state transportation departments in planning, funding, and constructing freight and passenger rail investments. The groundwork for a complete Heartland Flyer corridor from Dallas to Kansas City has been laid by work done in Texas and Oklahoma. The time is right for Kansas to commit to annual funding for this project and leverage the federal engineering and construction funds available in the Corridor ID Development Program of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Connecting the Heartland Flyer in Newton not only benefits south central and eastern Kansas, but southwest Kansas as well.

Thank you, again, for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 349.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Allen", written over a white background.

Matthew C. Allen
City Manager

Manny Ortiz
Mayor

Roy Cessna
Commissioner

Bryce Landgraf
Commissioner

Tom Nguyen
Commissioner

Troy R. Unruh
Commissioner

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