



## TESTIMONY

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

#### SB 86

By: Matthew C. Allen, City Manager, City of Garden City, KS  
On behalf of the City of Garden City  
January 31, 2025

#### Support

Roy Cessna  
Mayor

Tom Nguyen  
Commissioner

Bryce Landgraf  
Commissioner

Manuel F. Ortiz  
Commissioner

Troy R. Unruh  
Commissioner

Matthew C. Allen  
City Manager

Chairman Billinger 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 86.

Preserving and enhancing passenger rail service is a priority for the City of Garden City as articulated in our legislative policy. 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 86.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew C. Allen  
City Manager

City Administrative  
Center

301 N. 8<sup>th</sup>  
P.O. Box 998  
Garden City, KS 67846

620-276-1160

[www.garden-city.org](http://www.garden-city.org)