

RESOLUTION NO. 2017-07-3120

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE KANSAS LEGISLATURE IN ESTABLISHING PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE IN THE STATE OF KANSAS; ENCOURAGING THE LEGISLATURE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE EXPANSION OF AMTRAK'S HEARTLAND FLYER ROUTE FROM OKLAHOMA CITY TO NEWTON, KANSAS; AND URGING ELECTED OFFICIALS TO SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE AT BOTH THE FEDERAL AND STATE LEVELS.

WHEREAS, Arkansas City, Kansas, has not had passenger rail service since Amtrak's Lone Star route from Chicago to Houston through Kansas City, Wichita and Oklahoma City was discontinued in 1979; and

WHEREAS, passenger rail service was restored to Oklahoma in 1999 with the introduction of the Heartland Flyer, which runs daily between Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Fort Worth, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, in 2009 approved Resolution No. 2009-01-2514, endorsing passenger rail service in the 10-year Statewide Comprehensive Transportation Plan, citing it as "essential to the health, safety and welfare of our citizens in the future"; and

WHEREAS, Amtrak in March 2010 completed a Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas expansion study, which considered four alternatives for Kansas City-Wichita-Oklahoma City-Fort Worth service expansion, two of which were identified as "best" by the Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas departments of transportation and selected for further consideration in a 2011 Service Development Plan produced by Parsons Brinckerhoff for the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT); and

WHEREAS, then-Governor Mark Parkinson in 2010 signed the Kansas Passenger Rail Development Act, which establishes a KDOT program with the goal of entering "into agreements with Amtrak, other rail operators, local jurisdictions and other states for the purpose of developing passenger rail service, serving Kansas and other states interconnected and positioned on a current or proposed route"; and

WHEREAS, the restoration of passenger rail service to Arkansas City could affect hundreds of surrounding communities and thus should be an integral part of a comprehensive transportation system for the State of Kansas; and

WHEREAS, the 2030 Oklahoma City Area Regional Transportation Study, prepared by the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments, makes specific reference to the desirability of a passenger rail system that extends to multiple surrounding states, including Kansas, and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation's 2005-2030 Statewide Intermodal Transportation Plan also supports this expansion; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of passenger rail service between communities and regions within Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas will establish and strengthen economic development, tourism, job creation, social, historical, commercial, and cultural bonds; and

WHEREAS, an integrated passenger rail system will enhance accessibility and reliability of transportation for the frail, elderly and disabled populations, as well as provide environmental benefits by reducing harmful emissions; and

WHEREAS, the spectacular turnout of more than 300 Ark City-area residents on the morning of June 9, 2017, to witness the arrival of a special Amtrak inspection train demonstrates continued and dramatic interest in, and excitement and support for, the restoration of passenger rail to Arkansas City, Kansas.

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE AFORESTATED PREMISES, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ARKANSAS CITY, KANSAS:

SECTION ONE: The Governing Body of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, fully supports the creation of and state funding for a comprehensive rail system to serve the State of Kansas, with the ultimate

objectives of furthering economic opportunity, helping to preserve the environment, improving quality of life, and enhancing public health, safety, and welfare for all citizens, communities and regions.

SECTION TWO: The Governing Body of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, further supports the expansion of Amtrak service from Oklahoma City to Wichita, Newton and Kansas City, Kansas, and further asks the Kansas Legislature and the United States Congress to pass legislation providing stable funding for passenger rail service in the State of Kansas.

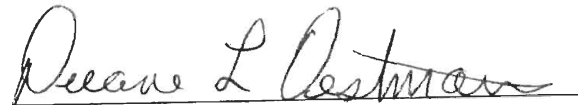
SECTION THREE: The Governing Body of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, hereby directs the City Clerk to mail copies of this Resolution and any supporting documentation to Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, U.S. Representative Ron Estes, U.S. Senators Jerry Moran and Pat Roberts, State Representatives Anita Judd-Jenkins and Ed Trimmer, and State Senator Larry Alley, requesting that they support any grant applications for expansion of Amtrak's Heartland Flyer route through Arkansas City and Wichita to Kansas City, Kansas.

SECTION FOUR: The Governing Body of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, hereby authorizes City staff of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, to take such further and other necessary actions that are required to effectuate the intent and purposes of this Legislative Enactment.

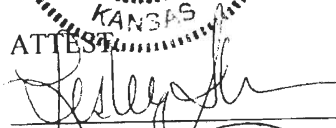
SECTION FIVE: This Resolution shall be in full force and effect from its date of passage by the Governing Body of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas.

PASSED AND RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, on July 18, 2017.

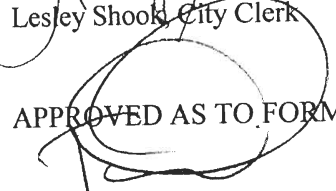



Duane L. Oestmann, Mayor

ATTEST


Lesley Shook, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Tamara L. Niles, City Attorney

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution No. 2017-07-3120 of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, adopted by the Governing Body thereof on July 18, 2017, as the same appears of record in my office.

DATED: July 19, 2017.


Lesley Shook, City Clerk

