

**RESOLUTION NO. 2020-07-3340**

**A RESOLUTION ENDORSING PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE BETWEEN OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA, AND NEWTON, KANSAS; REITERATING THE CITY OF ARKANSAS CITY'S LONGSTANDING SUPPORT FOR THIS PROJECT; SUPPORTING A MULTI-STATE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN AMTRAK AND THE STATES THROUGH WHICH THE SERVICE WILL OPERATE; AND URGING THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO TAKE ACTION.**

**WHEREAS**, numerous studies conducted by universities in Kansas and Texas have determined the economic benefit of Amtrak's Heartland Flyer passenger rail service and its extension to the economies of the states and in-route localities to be at least three to one for every dollar spent; and

**WHEREAS**, passenger rail service generates economic and environmental benefits throughout the state and region; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2020 Kansas Senate passed S.R. 1767, supporting a Heartland Flyer extension; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2010, the State of Kansas passed legislation authorizing a state passenger rail program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor of the State of Kansas has proposed to dedicate funds in the State's budget for preliminary work for the development of additional passenger rail service; and

**WHEREAS**, Amtrak has approached the State of Kansas to enter into a multi-state operational partnership for an extended Heartland Flyer with connecting service between the Amtrak Southwest Chief and Texas Eagle routes; and

**WHEREAS**, Amtrak has presented to the 2020 Committee on Ways and Means of the Kansas Senate a plan to request 100-percent Federal funding for the passenger rail development of the Heartland Flyer extension through reauthorization or other Federal grant opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, ridership on the Heartland Flyer extension from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Newton, Kansas, is anticipated to double if connected with the Southwest Chief in Newton, Kansas; and

**WHEREAS**, fully funded maintenance of the Southwest Chief is an integral and vital component of the Heartland Flyer extension; and

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 coronavirus state of emergency and steps taken to battle the virus have highlighted our need for safer, more reliable travel options to enable residents in small cities to reach needed medical centers and to provide methods of travel to the many travelers who no longer can travel in airplanes due to their medical situations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has been the recipient of several Federal Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grants that have improved the tracks of the Southwest Chief, which serves several communities in the state, and these grant-funded enhancements have laid the groundwork for the planning and development of expanded passenger rail services; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the primary responsibilities of state government is to plan for the immediate and long-term transportation needs of the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the new Eisenhower Legacy Transportation Program includes funding for the operational expenses of the Heartland Flyer extension from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Newton, Kansas; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, previously has resolved to show its support for the Northern Flyer Alliance and the Heartland Flyer extension through the passage of Resolution No. 2008-02-2454, Resolution No. 2009-01-2514, and Resolution No. 2017-07-3120; and

**WHEREAS**, the spectacular turnout of more than 300 Arkansas City-area residents on the morning of June 9, 2017, to witness the arrival of a special Amtrak inspection train and the awarding of a \$10,000 Railroad Heritage Award to the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, demonstrates continued and dramatic interest in, and excitement and support for, the restoration of passenger rail service to Arkansas City.

**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 and endorses the extension of Amtrak passenger rail service between Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Newton, Kansas, via Arkansas City, Kansas.

**SECTION TWO:** The Governing Body of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, continues to endorse the extension of Amtrak passenger rail service between Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Newton, Kansas.

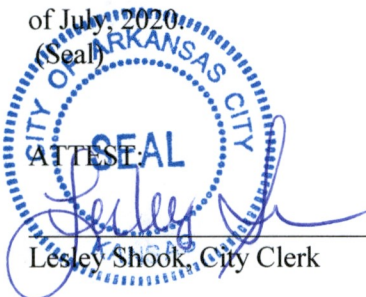
**SECTION THREE:** The Governing Body of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, also hereby endorses a State partnership between Amtrak and the states through which the service will operate, including Kansas.

**SECTION FOUR:** The Governing Body of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, hereby authorizes the Mayor and/or 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 this 21<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2020.

(Seal)



ATTEST

Lesley Shook, City Clerk

Karen Welch, Mayor

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Larry R. Schwartz, City Attorney

### CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution No. 2020-07-3340 of the City of Arkansas City, Kansas, adopted by the Governing Body thereof on July 21, 2020, as the same appears of record in my office.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_.

Lesley Shook, City Clerk