



The Northern Flyer Alliance & Kansas Rail Caucus

By Deborah Fischer Stout, President
The Northern Flyer Alliance, Inc.

Topics to be presented

What is the Northern Flyer Alliance?

What is the Heartland Flyer Extension?

Why and How did we start the Kansas Rail Caucus?

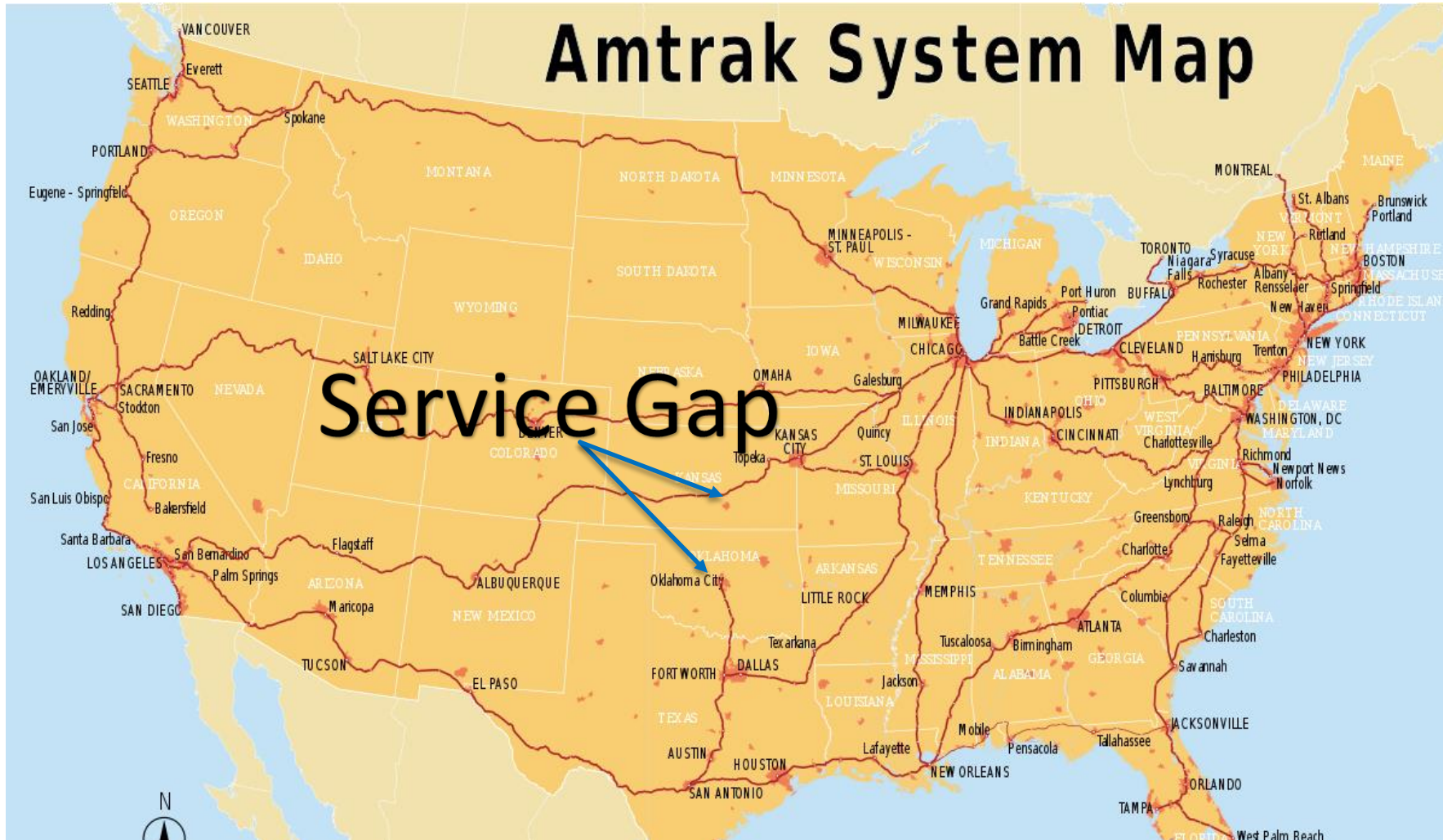
What has been the result of our efforts?

What are Next Steps?

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- **2006 – a group of people favoring restoration of the Lone Star began to find each other online and through newspaper stories**
- **2008 – formally organized as a 501(c)4**
- **Common Goal - close 200-mile Service Gap with the Heartland Flyer Extension**

Amtrak System Map



Present day Amtrak Network, and the 200-mile Service Gap, aka The Heartland Flyer Extension.

I-35 Megaregion



Why a Rail Caucus?



1. Problems that needed fixing in Kansas:

- **Too many well-financed voices promoting myths**
- **Needed more efficient way to educate 140 legislators**

2. Needed the right Messengers for the Message

- **The Facts could be presented by Transportation & Rail Professionals who could function as educators**
- **A Rail Caucus allowed for information to be presented all in one place and all at one time**



How Did We Do It?

- 1. Created and Implemented a Marketing Campaign to KS legislators**
- 2. Included a Series of Mailings**
- 3. Result: received 35 “YES” post cards**
- 4. Last mailing asked for Chair nominations**
- 5. Sen. McGinn became our 1st Rail Caucus Chair**

Wins/Results

1. Kansas Statute 75-5089, 2010 - Passenger Rail program with Revolving Fund
2. 2011: Service Development Plan & 1st KS Rail Plan to include Passenger Rail
3. Formed Rail Caucus in 2021
4. KDOT's Corridor ID Application 2022
5. \$5M added to Passenger Rail Revolving Fund thru Budget Process in 2024
6. "No Limit" funding for Passenger Rail Revolving Fund during Budget Process in 2025 & 2026 - **Now \$15M!**

What Influenced Legislators?

- 1. 2009 KU Return on Investment Study**
- 2. MODOT's 2021 Economic Impact Study!**

What's Next?

- 1. New Rail Caucus in Missouri**
- 2. Rail Caucuses in OK and TX!**



Thank you!



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