



City Commission Agenda Item

Meeting Date: July 6, 2021
From: Randy Frazer, City Manager
Item: Amtrak Passenger Rail Service Support Resolution

Purpose: A Resolution of Support by the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Arkansas City for expansion of Amtrak Passenger Rail Service in Oklahoma and Kansas.

Background:

AMTRAK has released the AMTRAK CONNECTS US plan to grow rail service across America. This 2035 VISION identifies expansion and enhancement of corridor routes that offers economically viable, frequent, reliable and sustainable passenger train service.

Amtrak has identified an Extension of the Heartland Flyer as an economically viable train for a connection with the Southwest Chief at Newton, Kansas, that will improve the performance of the national network. Economic analysis from Kansas University and Texas Transportation Institute have shown that an Extension of the Heartland Flyer would have a positive return on investment and a positive impact on the Kansas economy at both the state and local levels.

An Extension of the Heartland Flyer between Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and Newton, Kansas would add the cities of Edmund, Guthrie, Perry, Ponca City, Arkansas City, Wichita and Newton to the schedule. The development of a Northern Flyer train between Fort Worth, Texas and Kansas City, Missouri would qualify as a second round trip frequency for the route.

Amtrak has proposed 100% funding for the capital costs required for new corridor development.

Commission Options:

1. Approve with the consent agenda.
2. Remove item from consent agenda for further consideration.

Fiscal Impact:

Amount:

Fund: _____ Department: _____ Expense Code: _____
Included in Budget _____ Grant _____ Bonds _____ Other (explain)

Approved for Agenda by:



Randy Frazer, City Manager