

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 HOUSE CONCURRENT
4 RESOLUTION 1003

By: Luttrell

7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Concurrent Resolution endorsing and supporting the
9 extension of Amtrak service between Oklahoma City,
10 Oklahoma, and Newton, Kansas; urging support for the
11 inclusion of federal funding for development of
12 Heartland Flyer Extension; urging support for the
13 inclusion of federal funding for the maintenance and
14 development of the Southwest Chief; supporting
15 approval of certain multistate partnership; and
16 directing distribution.

17 WHEREAS, the Kansas Secretary of Transportation Julie Lorenz has
18 presented to the 2021 Passenger Rail Coalition that she and Oklahoma
19 Secretary of Transportation Tim Gatz have discussed that both states
20 desire that the Heartland Flyer be extended north through Oklahoma
21 and Kansas, yet both states require federal funding to develop the
22 corridor; and

23 WHEREAS, Amtrak presented a proposal for the state of Kansas
24 February 10, 2021, at the 2021 Passenger Rail Coalition Forum to
25 request one hundred percent (100%) federal funding for the Heartland
26 Flyer Extension capital costs, and three (3) to five (5) years of

1 operational costs through reauthorization of the Surface
2 Transportation Act; and

3 WHEREAS, Amtrak has approached the state of Kansas to enter into
4 a multistate operational partnership for an extended Heartland
5 Flyer, with connecting service between Amtrak's Southwest Chief and
6 Texas Eagle; and

7 WHEREAS, Amtrak has received a reauthorization act request from
8 the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission incorporating
9 additional frequencies and a second train over this corridor,
10 specifically a daytime frequency to operate between Fort Worth,
11 Texas, and Kansas City, Missouri; and

12 WHEREAS, the Kansas Passenger Rail Service Development Plan of
13 2010 includes an option for additional frequencies and a second
14 train, known as Alternative No.3, to transit the Heartland Flyer and
15 Southwest Chief corridors; and

16 WHEREAS, a concomitant improvement of ridership and financial
17 performance would be realized by an extension and second frequency
18 of the Heartland Flyer; and

19 WHEREAS, the Amtrak Southwest Chief and Sunset Limited routes
20 would realize a dramatic increase in ridership and financial
21 performance resulting from a two-frequency Heartland Flyer
22 connection with hubs in Newton, Kansas, and Fort Worth, Texas; and

23 WHEREAS, ridership on the Heartland Flyer Extension from
24 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Newton, Kansas, is anticipated to double

1 when connected with the Southwest Chief in Newton, Kansas. Fully
2 funded maintenance of the Southwest Chief is an integral and vital
3 component of the Heartland Flyer Extension; and

4 WHEREAS, the Kansas Department of Transportation identifies
5 passenger rail development in its State Rail Plan.

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
7 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 58TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE
8 CONCURRING THEREIN:

9 THAT the Senate and House of Representatives supports and
10 endorses the extension of Amtrak service between Oklahoma City,
11 Oklahoma, and Newton, Kansas.

12 THAT the Senate and House of Representatives urges the Oklahoma
13 Congressional delegation to support the inclusion of federal funding
14 for the full implementation and development of the Heartland Flyer
15 Extension from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Newton, Kansas, including
16 a second frequency directly connecting Kansas City, Missouri, with
17 Fort Worth, Texas, in the upcoming reauthorization of the Surface
18 Transportation Act.

19 THAT the Senate and House of Representatives urges the Oklahoma
20 Congressional delegation to support the inclusion of full federal
21 funding for the maintenance and future development of the Southwest
22 Chief in the upcoming reauthorization.

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1 THAT the House of Representatives and Senate approve a
2 multistate partnership between Amtrak and the states through which
3 the service will operate.

4 THAT enrolled copies of this resolution be presented and
5 distributed to the Governor of Oklahoma, Governor of Kansas, the
6 Secretary of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, the
7 Secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation, each member of
8 the Oklahoma Congressional delegation, Secretary of the United
9 States Department of Transportation Pete Buttigieg and all
10 cosponsors of this resolution.

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12 58-1-8013 JBH 03/31/21

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