

Dwight D. Eisenhower State Office Building
700 S.W. Harrison Street
Topeka, KS 66603-3745
Mike King, Secretary



Phone: 785-296-3461
Fax: 785-296-0287
Hearing Impaired - 711
publicinfo@ksdot.org
<http://www.ksdot.org>

Sam Brownback, Governor

May 31, 2013

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

RE: TIGER Grant application for City of Wichita – Northern Flyer Extension

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is submitting this letter of support for the City of Wichita, Kansas grant application as it pertains to the extension of the Amtrak Heartland Flyer passenger rail service from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma to Newton, Kansas.

This proposed extension will provide a north-south connection with two Amtrak national routes, the Southwest Chief in Newton, KS and the Texas Eagle in Ft. Worth, TX. This improvement and the accompanying service would fill a major gap in the Amtrak passenger rail network and will be beneficial to the traveling public, government, and businesses throughout the central region of the United States.

Wichita officials have developed significant regional support for the expansion of the Heartland Flyer service. The KDOT is happy to be a partner on the application and would urge your favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike King". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Mike King
Secretary of Transportation



June 3, 2013

Mr. Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Wichita, KS TIGER Grant Application – Northern Flyer Extension (aka Heartland Flyer Extension)

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Occidental Management, Inc. is submitting this letter to express its strong support for the City of Wichita’s TIGER Grant Application regarding the proposed extension of the Amtrak Northern Flyer Project. This project represents a significant opportunity to strengthen the connection of commerce and passenger rail service along the I-35 Corridor stretching from San Antonio, TX to Kansas City, MO and further still to the Chicago, IL Metropolitan Statistical Area. This multi-jurisdictional project supports the current National Rail Plan from the Federal Railroad Administration by fostering the development of passenger rail service in this corridor.

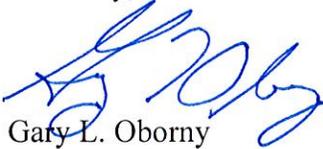
Occidental’s involvement in this project was heightened by our acquisition and planned redevelopment of the Historic Union Station in Wichita, KS. This downtown historic landmark is in the process of massive rejuvenation, after many years of inactivity, due to the resurgence of economic investment and the creation of strategic partnerships to enhance the south-central region of Kansas as a regional hub for transportation and commerce, which serves over one million Kansans and six million visitors on an annual basis.

This proposed extension has generated a groundswell of support from the business communities in Wichita, Oklahoma City and Kansas City as it promotes growth in the region’s manufacturing industry, economic development, trade and commerce, lower cost transportation alternatives for travelers, and connection to metropolitan areas for rural consumers. Recently, the Mayors of these three cities signed a declaration of commitment to work together on The Northern Flyer Extension as it meets the objectives outlined by TIGER for the long-term, generational economic impact on a regional and national basis.

As a business that is headquartered in Wichita, KS and actively involved in organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, The Leadership Council – Greater Wichita Economic Development Corp., Wichita Independent Business Association, Rotary, and many other civic and charitable endeavors, Occidental Management is committed to doing all that we can to connect and align our city with like-minded regional and national partners to

enhance the economic viability of Wichita. To this end, we strongly recommend the selection of the Wichita, KS 2013 TIGER Grant Application for the Northern Flyer Project. We are honored to be a part of this process and appreciate the opportunity to offer this letter of support for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary L. Oborny
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer



Chad J. Stafford
President



May 29, 2013

Mr. Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Wichita, KS TIGER Grant Application for the Northern Flyer Project

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the Wichita Downtown Development Corporation, we would like to express the organization's strong support of the City of Wichita, KS ("Wichita") 2013 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recover (TIGER 2013) Grant Application for the Northern Flyer Project. Our organization represents a constituency of thousands of Downtown business and property owners in Wichita, KS.

The Northern Flyer [aka Heartland Flyer Extension] Project is an outstanding example of a project that supports the long-term national goals that have been established by the TIGER Grant program. It is multi-jurisdictional, requiring the cooperation of both the Kansas and Oklahoma State Departments of Transportation. **Development of passenger service in this corridor is also identified in the most current National Rail Plan released by the Federal Railroad Administration.**

Additionally and significantly, by extending the Heartland Flyer north to connect with the Southwest Chief, the proposed passenger rail corridor stretching from Dallas, TX to Newton, KS would also connect the massive Great Lakes mega-region with the economic and transportation centers along the I-35 Corridor mega-region from Kansas City, MO to San Antonio, TX. Through strengthened connections, a more prosperous economy will develop from Chicago to San Antonio.

By closing this 200 mile "service gap", the Kansas Department of Transportation ("KDOT"), the Oklahoma Department of Transportation ("ODOT"), the City of Wichita and the City of Oklahoma City have partnered to improve the region's manufacturing base, worker productivity, economic development, trade & commerce, to reduce the cost of travel for commuters, and better connect the significant rural areas to the region's life blood, its metropolitan centers. By developing this project, the City of Wichita has demonstrated a regional approach through its ability to work in conjunction with two states and multiple cities in this effort, and is thoroughly committed to an accelerated implementation of this project.

Environmental Review and Preliminary Design are the required next steps in developing the corridor. Enthusiasm for the project has grown greatly and includes funding sources that have been secured through KDOT and ODOT to complete the environmental review phase of development. Wichita began this project as part of the Visioneering Wichita process that began in 2004. This year-long program included input from over 16,000 citizens that generated a series of goals, strategies and outcomes, one of which was the restoration of passenger rail to Downtown Wichita.

The City of Wichita is a regional economic base for over one million individuals in the State of Kansas. Over six million people visit the area on an annual basis. Currently, strategic efforts are underway to strengthen this base with over \$370 million in public and private sector investment since 2010 and over \$100 million in projects currently under construction that are helping to revitalize the Downtown area. Also of significance is the new \$100 million airport terminal that is also currently under construction. With these and many other investments, the City of Wichita is emerging as a regional transportation hub and the expansion of passenger rail both complements and enhances these key initiatives.

The Northern Flyer Extension Project meets the TIGER goals for significant regional and national impact and will be successful for generations. The Wichita Downtown Development Corporation strongly recommends that you select the City of Wichita, KS 2013 TIGER Grant Application for the Northern Flyer Project. We appreciate the opportunity to offer this letter of support and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gary Schmitt
WDDC Board Chairman
Wichita Downtown Development Corp.



Jeffrey C. Fluhr
President
Wichita Downtown Development Corp.



June 3, 2013

Mr. Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Wichita Transit is pleased to offer our complete support for the City of Wichita, Kansas, 2013 Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER 2013) grant application for the Northern Flyer Project. Wichita Transit is the designated public transit provider in the Wichita area, and we serve over 2 million riders annually. We enthusiastically support this project to improve connectivity throughout this region and the access it provides our constituents.

We believe the Northern Flyer (aka Heartland Flyer Extension) Project is a project that supports the long-term national goals that have been established by the TIGER grant program. It is multi-jurisdictional, requiring the cooperation of the Kansas and Oklahoma state departments of transportation. **Development of passenger service in this corridor is also identified in the most current National Rail Plan released by the Federal Railroad Administration.**

By extending the Heartland Flyer north to connect with the Southwest Chief, the proposed passenger rail corridor stretching from Dallas, TX, to Newton, KS, would also connect the massive Great Lakes Megaregion with the economic and transportation centers along the I-35 Corridor Megaregion from Kansas City, MO, to San Antonio, TX. Through strengthened connections, a more prosperous economy will develop from Chicago to San Antonio.

By closing this 200 mile service gap, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT), the City of Wichita, and the City of Oklahoma City have partnered to improve the region's manufacturing base, worker productivity, economic development, commerce, trade, reduce the cost of travel for commuters, and better connect the significant rural areas to the region's lifeblood, its metropolitan centers. By

Transit Operations Center

777 East Waterman • Wichita, Kansas 67202

T 316.265.1450 F 316.337.9287

www.wichita.gov

Mr. Ray LaHood
June 3, 2013
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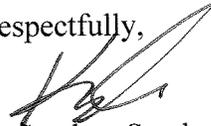
developing this project, Wichita has demonstrated a regional attitude, the vision to work in conjunction with two states and multiple cities in all of its efforts, and its unwavering commitment to an accelerated implementation.

Environmental Review and Preliminary Design are the required next steps in developing the corridor. Enthusiasm for the project has grown greatly and includes funding sources that have been secured through KDOT and ODOT to complete the environmental review phase of development. Wichita began this project as part of the Visioneering process that began in 2004. This year-long program included 16,000 citizens that generated a series of goals, strategies, and outcomes, one of which was the restoration of passenger rail to downtown Wichita.

The Northern Flyer Extension Project meets the TIGER goals for significant regional and national impact and will be successful for generations. Wichita Transit strongly recommends that you select the City of Wichita, Kansas, 2013 TIGER grant application for the Northern Flyer Project.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



K. Stephen Spade
Director

Wichita Transit / City of Wichita, Kansas