

1                   **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2                                   STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3                                   1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

4 HOUSE CONCURRENT  
5 RESOLUTION 1003

By: Luttrell

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8                                   AS INTRODUCED

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

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

24                   WHEREAS, Amtrak presented a proposal for the state of Kansas  
February 10, 2021, at the 2021 Passenger Rail Coalition Forum to  
request one hundred percent (100%) federal funding for the Heartland

1 Flyer Extension capital costs, and three (3) to five (5) years of  
2 operational costs through reauthorization of the Surface  
3 Transportation Act; and

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

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

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

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

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

24

1           WHEREAS, ridership on the Heartland Flyer Extension from  
2 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Newton, Kansas, is anticipated to double  
3 when connected with the Southwest Chief in Newton, Kansas. Fully  
4 funded maintenance of the Southwest Chief is an integral and vital  
5 component of the Heartland Flyer Extension; and

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

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

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

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

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

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 DIRECT TO CALENDAR.

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