

RESOLUTION NO. 2011 - 04

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EXPANDED RAILROAD OPERATIONS FOR THE GUTHRIE TERRITORIAL CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL, AS WELL AS SUPPORTING CONTINUED EFFORTS BY THE OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO EXPAND DAILY PASSENGER RAIL OPERATIONS PERMANENTLY THROUGH GUTHRIE TO OTHER NORTH AMERICAN CITIES.

WHEREAS, Guthrie, Oklahoma is a community whose primary business is heritage tourism, relating to its status as Oklahoma's first state capital; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Guthrie was designated as a National Historic Place in 1974 and a National Historical Landmark in 1999; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Guthrie is one of the largest urban Historic District in the nation, consisting of 2,169 buildings, many of which are late Victorian architecture, and 400 city blocks; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Guthrie is the Bed and Breakfast Capital of Oklahoma; and,

WHEREAS, the states of Oklahoma and Texas fund National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) passenger rail operations between Fort Worth, Texas and Oklahoma City; and,

WHEREAS, Guthrie sits on a BNSF Rail Route, 30 miles north of Oklahoma City, on a BNSF Railway mainline; and,

WHEREAS, Guthrie has provided a terminal for two Heartland Flyer festival events; and,

WHEREAS, the first of these festival events was the 2005 Bluegrass festival; and,

WHEREAS, the second, the 2009 Guthrie Territorial Christmas and Victorian Walk; and,

WHEREAS, the state of Oklahoma and Amtrak annually expand Heartland Flyer operations to Dallas, Texas for the University of Oklahoma – University of Texas football contest; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Guthrie seeks additional transit based economic development; and,

WHEREAS, the *Texas Transportation Institute* (TTI) showed a \$14.1 million positive return for passenger rail operations through its 2010 *Oklahoma City – Fort Worth Amtrak* passenger rail study, Measuring the Benefits of Intercity Passenger Rail: A Study of the Heartland Flyer Corridor; and,

WHEREAS, this TTI study shows economic advantage for Oklahoma communities that include passenger rail stops; and,

WHEREAS, sustaining City of Guthrie tax revenue is dependent upon low gasoline prices; and,

WHEREAS, gasoline prices are rising due to world geopolitical crises; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Guthrie desires permanent passenger rail transportation for its residents along the Fort Worth – Oklahoma City – and other Northern cities BNSF Railway mainline,

NOW, THEREFORE, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE AFORESTATED PREMISES, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA:

SECTION ONE: The City of Guthrie, Oklahoma requests that the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) immediately enter into cooperative negotiations with Amtrak and the City of Guthrie/ Guthrie Chamber of Commerce to provide expanded passenger rail operations to the 2011 Guthrie Territorial Christmas and Victorian Walk Festival Events.

SECTION TWO: That Amtrak and ODOT schedule the Guthrie Territorial Christmas and Victorian Walk Train as an annual Heartland Flyer – City of Guthrie festival operation.

SECTION THREE: That ODOT continue efforts to expand daily passenger rail operations permanently through Guthrie from Texas to other North American cities.

SECTION FOUR: That funding for this event be provided, as reasonable, through the Oklahoma Tourism and Passenger Rail Revolving Fund Number 211 in the event that Amtrak must charge for this event.

APPROVED AND PASSED, this 15th day of March, 2011


CHUCK BURTCHER, Mayor

ATTEST:


Wanda Calvert, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

Randel Shadid, City Attorney