



*Convention & Visitors' Bureau*

April 8, 2008

Ms. Deb Miller  
Secretary of Transportation  
Kansas Department of Transportation  
Dwight D. Eisenhower State Office Building  
700 SW Harrison Street  
Topeka, KS 66603-3754

Dear Ms. Miller,

I am writing on behalf of the efforts to extend the Heartland Flyer north from Oklahoma City, OK into south central Kansas. The line could possibly include Wichita, Newton, Winfield and Arkansas City.

Tourism and Economic development go hand-in-hand and the possibility of the return of passenger rail service to Arkansas City multiplies the growth of travel opportunities. It is the mission of the Arkansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote a fun and friendly destination. Rail service would provide opportunity for visitors to experience the beauty of the flint hills and visit the rural treasures in Cowley County.

The Railroad Heritage Days celebration planned for April 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> this year in Arkansas City will include information on the initiative of the Northern Flyer Alliance, with presentation by Evan Stair, the Oklahoma Director of said organization. It is expected to inspire support of the citizens of Arkansas City and surrounding area.

The Arkansas City Convention & Visitors Bureau supports the expansion of the Heartland Flyer route as a means to enhance the economy, infrastructure and quality of life advantages its service would offer the state of Kansas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Connie Kimsey".

Connie Kimsey, Director  
Arkansas City Convention & Visitors Bureau

cc: Evan Stair  
Oklahoma Director, Northern Flyer Alliance