



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

200 N. E. 21st Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73105-3204

October 11, 2006

Evan Stair, Executive Director
Passenger Rail Oklahoma
517 Claremont
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

Dear Mr. Stair:

Your letter of October 1, 2006, to the Secretary Tomlinson, has been forwarded to me for response. We are extremely pleased and excited to have secured funding from the State of Texas for the Heartland Flyer. And, in consideration of Oklahoma's funding limitations, it couldn't have happened at a better time.

It is our desire, and always has been, to connect North to Newton, Kansas, or through Tulsa. As you well know, to facilitate either extension requires funding, either one state or two, and commitments and approvals from our current partners BNSF and Amtrak. As you noted in your September 8th letter, millions of dollars in additional funding will be required. As to whether or not your numbers reflect accurately today's cost is uncertain. Unless the State of Oklahoma actually has an established funding source to extend the Heartland Flyer service, request for "new" numbers would be premature on our part.

It has always been the desire to extend our rail passenger service and we fully intend to explore all possibilities to achieve this. The Department has always appreciated the input and dedication of any individual's or groups supporting rail passenger service in Oklahoma. It's quite apparent that your organization is a leader in "grass roots" support.

Sincerely,


Joe R. Kyle
Division Manager
Rail Programs Division

JRK:JD:dg

"The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation is to provide a safe, economical, and effective transportation network for the people, commerce and communities of Oklahoma."

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