

SESSION OF 2009

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1617**

As Recommended by Senate Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

SCR 1617 would recognize the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), its counterparts in Oklahoma and Texas, and Amtrak for their work in preparing a feasibility report for an Amtrak passenger line from Kansas City to Fort Worth through Wichita and Oklahoma City. It states that the State intends to further develop its multi-modal transportation plan incorporating supplemental state passenger rail funding contingent on the findings of the Amtrak study, and that the State seeks to enhance economic development opportunities in its communities through supplemental passenger rail operations. It notes that 33 cities and four county governments have submitted resolutions of support for intercity passenger rail to the Governor and to KDOT.

It also would urge KDOT to take the following actions:

- Amend the state Comprehensive Transportation Plan to specifically include intercity passenger rail development;
- Develop a long-range passenger rail plan to be included within the framework of a 10-year comprehensive transportation plan, as a requirement to seek matching federal passenger rail capital funding; and
- Apply for a grant funded under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, under guidelines issued by the U.S. Federal Railroad Administration, to be used for

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

funding and development of an intercity passenger rail route between Kansas City and Oklahoma City, as outlined in the feasibility study being prepared by Amtrak.

It further urges Amtrak to expedite completion and delivery of the Kansas passenger rail feasibility study.

Background

The wording of SCR 1617 is nearly identical to HCR 5014, which was referred to the House Committee on Transportation.

KDOT officials have reported to members of the House and Senate Transportation Committees that Amtrak does not anticipate completion of its feasibility study until fall 2009.