



CITY OF ARKANSAS CITY, KANSAS

Office of the City Manager
Randy Frazer, City Manager

February 4, 2025

Chairman and Members of the Kansas Senate Ways & Means Committee,
Kansas State Legislature
300 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612

RE: Testimony Before the In Support of SB 86

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 86. The extension of the Heartland Flyer through Arkansas City is a vital investment in economic growth, transportation connectivity, and cultural tourism that will benefit both our community and the state of Kansas.

Passenger rail is a proven catalyst for local economies. The Heartland Flyer Extension will:

- Create construction and maintenance jobs, stimulating local economies.
- Boost tourism, increasing revenue for local businesses and tax collections.
- Attract businesses seeking enhanced transportation infrastructure and connectivity.

The extension is especially critical for Arkansas City, home to the Etzanoa Visitors Center currently under construction. This center will showcase the history and cultural significance of the ancient city of Etzanoa, drawing visitors, researchers, and students from around the world. Reliable passenger rail service will:

- Provide convenient access for tourists and scholars.
- Amplify economic opportunities for local businesses.
- Solidify Arkansas City as a regional tourism destination.

Passenger rail expands transportation options for Kansans of all backgrounds, including students, seniors, and workers. The Heartland Flyer Extension will:

- Improve access to higher education institutions for students without vehicles.
- Reduce highway congestion and maintenance costs.
- Offer a friendly alternative to car and air travel.

Delays increase costs, and other states are already capitalizing on rail expansion. By moving forward now, Kansas can secure federal funding and ensure we remain competitive with our neighbors. The Heartland Flyer Extension is a strategic, future-focused investment that aligns with state and federal transportation priorities.

I urge this committee to support SB 86. The Heartland Flyer Extension will drive economic growth, enhance accessibility, and support Kansas communities, particularly Arkansas City and the Etzanoa Visitors Center. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Randy Frazer
City Manager
City of Arkansas City

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