



Heartland Flyer Extension

Connecting Wichita and communities across Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas to the Amtrak network

Amtrak's Vision:

Fort Worth - Oklahoma City - Wichita - Newton

Amtrak's vision extends the existing *Heartland Flyer* route to serve Wichita and link to Amtrak's *Southwest Chief*:

- Expand from 1 to 3 round trips between Oklahoma City (OKC) and Fort Worth (FTW), connecting with *Texas Triangle* services to Dallas, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio, and the *Texas Eagle* to Los Angeles, Tucson, St. Louis, and Chicago.
- Extend 1 Fort Worth – Oklahoma City round trip to Wichita and Newton, KS (NEW) for a connection with Amtrak's *Southwest Chief* to Los Angeles, Albuquerque, Kansas City, and Chicago.



Frequency	Initial Trip Time	Host Railroad	Economic Impact
FTW-OKC: 3 daily round trips OKC-NEW: 1 daily round trip	FTW-OKC: 3:59 OKC-NEW: 4:19	BNSF	\$64.8 million annually, plus \$1.9 billion in economic activity from one-time capital investments

Corridor Growth

Extension and improvement of Amtrak’s existing *Heartland Flyer* service would enhance existing service between Fort Worth and Oklahoma City, bring new service to Wichita, and increase connectivity to the Amtrak network via Newton. Although Oklahoma City and Wichita are only 160 miles apart, the last time they were connected by passenger rail was in 1979. Additionally, the service would connect to the *Texas Triangle* routes included in Amtrak’s corridor vision. The Dallas/Fort Worth area is home to over 7.5 million people, the fourth largest in the United States, and the route in total would serve an area with over ten million residents.

Proposed Stations

- Newton, KS
- Wichita, KS*
- Arkansas City, KS*
- Ponca City, OK*
- Perry, OK*
- Guthrie, OK*
- Edmond, OK*
- Oklahoma City, OK
- Norman, OK
- Purcell, OK
- Pauls Valley, OK
- Ardmore, OK
- Gainesville, TX
- Fort Worth, TX

* *New Amtrak stations*

Environment and Transportation Equity

The growth experienced by the Wichita-Dallas corridor has been accompanied by increased traffic congestion, especially along Wichita's I-235 highway. The Dallas – Fort Worth – Arlington corridor is one of the top ten most congested areas in the United States. According to the Texas A&M Transportation Institute, drivers in the region lost 67 hours sitting in traffic in 2017. Oklahoma City has experienced similar issues. Amtrak service can bring much-needed relief to the corridor.

New rail connections between smaller cities in the corridor and Wichita, Oklahoma City, and Fort Worth would improve mobility for underserved communities, connecting residents to new education and employment opportunities along the corridor.

Connections to Higher Education

Extending the *Heartland Flyer* would create new connections between major metropolitan cities, medium-sized cities, and colleges and universities. Students, their families, faculty, and staff will be able to take advantage of frequent Amtrak service to avoid traffic between destinations.

Colleges and universities served by the *Heartland Flyer* Extension would include:

- Bethel College (*Student Population: 514*)
- Cowley University (*Student Population: 3,762*)
- Friends University (*Student Population: 2,800*)
- Hutchinson Community College (*Student Population: 5,500*)
- Newman University (*Student Population: 2,705*)
- Oklahoma Christian University (*Student Population: 2,200*)
- Texas Christian University (*Student Population: 9,704*)
- Texas Wesleyan University (*Student Population: 2,619*)
- University of Central Oklahoma (*Student Population: 11,433*)
- The University of Oklahoma (*Student Population: 26,327*)
- Wichita State University (*Student Population: 15,550*)