



COUNTY OF LEAVENWORTH

From the desk of Commissioner Mike Stieben

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February 5, 2024

To: Kansas Senate Committee on Transportation

From: Leavenworth County Commissioner Mike Stieben

Re: Support for SB#349 Passenger Rail funding

Dear Committee Members:

I urge you to support SB349 which will facilitate expansion of rail passenger service in Kansas. Certain federal funding sources are now available that can make this service expansion a reality.

Expansion of the "Heartland Flyer" from Oklahoma City to Newton will not only help all of the communities along the line but will also benefit the State of Kansas and the entire region. It is hoped that this service can be extended to the Kansas City metro area with additional route frequency. This would expand services for the Topeka to Kansas City corridor which are set to be impacted by the new Panasonic Battery Plant near DeSoto.

Perhaps future rail access will allow for expanded development of the transportation needs of the entire metro area in the Kansas City region and tie the communities of Topeka and Lawrence into the Kansas City metro area in a way that has not yet been realized.

I am including a letter of support signed by all five of the members of the Leavenworth Board of County Commissioners supporting expansion of rail passenger service within the State of Kansas.

Cordially yours,

Mike Stieben
Leavenworth County Commissioner