



Project Overview

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) is evaluating the expansion of passenger rail in south central Kansas. The proposed project would extend the Heartland Flyer passenger rail service from Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, to Newton, Kansas, where it would then connect with the Southwest Chief, a national route on Amtrak’s passenger rail network. The Heartland Flyer currently provides daily service between Fort Worth, Texas, and Oklahoma City.

Benefits

KDOT and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) believe this extension is a unique opportunity to not only enhance the overall intercity passenger rail network, but also provide additional benefits, including:

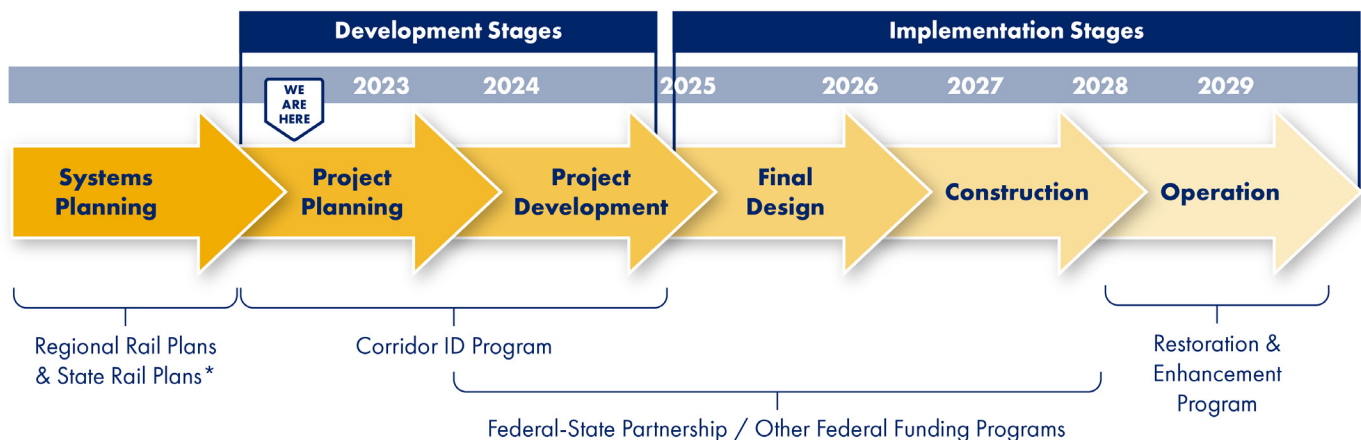
- Better multimodal connections
- Supports economic development and community investment
- Newfound tourism opportunities
- Lower emissions
- More diverse transportation options



Timeline

There are several steps that KDOT must complete prior to construction and operation. KDOT is currently in the Project Planning and Development phase. The project team will hold another public meeting in 2024 to provide a project update and next steps. The extension is expected to be operational in 2029 dependent upon funding availability.

FRA Project Lifecycle Stages - Corresponding FRA Funding Programs



*Regional Rail Planning and State Rail Plans may be funded through other FRA funding programs.



Frequently Asked Questions

Below is a list of commonly asked questions.

- **Gov. Kelly recently announced KDOT Passenger Rail was selected for the Corridor ID Program to receive federal funding. What does that mean?**
The funding will support ongoing planning efforts and formalizes KDOT's partnership with the FRA.
- **Is there any possibility of extending the Heartland Flyer services north of Newton to Kansas City or other destinations?**
The current planning effort is focused on the extension of the existing service to Newton. Additional destinations will be considered in future planning efforts.
- **Will there be travel times offered during the day?**
The schedule and service times are currently under review during the Service Development Plan Phase.
- **When is the anticipated project completion date and can it be expedited?**
There are a number of stages a project must move through prior to construction and operation. KDOT is currently in the Development/Project Planning stage. The extension from Oklahoma City, OK to Newton, KS is expected to be operating in 2029.
- **What is the anticipated travel time between Newton and Fort Worth?**
About 10 hours including stops.
- **Are there plans to include bicycle accommodations with the Newton/Oklahoma City line?**
Yes, KDOT considers bicycle accommodations in the project development.
- **Are there plans to upgrade the rail cars and make the interior/exterior more attractive or add sleeper cars?**
KDOT will consider the feedback and if applicable, work with project partners during a future stage of the project.
- **What opportunities will there be to coordinate with other multimodal services?**
KDOT is currently evaluating. It is anticipated that local bus services will coordinate with Amtrak to get travelers to their destinations, including the airports and universities along the corridor.
- **What opportunities will there be to coordinate schedules with other Amtrak services at the north and south ends of the route?**
At the north end of the route, in Newton, passengers can access Amtrak's Southwest Chief. At the south-end, in Oklahoma City, the route will connect to the existing Heartland Flyer with routes to Dallas/Fort Worth.

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To learn more about the project or sign up to receive the latest project updates, please scan the QR code or visit www.ksdot.gov/passrail/



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For more information, please visit [the project website](#). This information can be made available in alternative accessible formats by contacting 785.296.3585 Voice/Hearing Impaired-711.