

SJR 35

1 THE STATE SENATE
2 Monday, February 23, 2009

3 Senate Joint
4 Resolution No. 35

5 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 35 - By: Sparks and Sweeden of the
6 Senate and Collins of the House.

7 A Joint Resolution in support of the State of Kansas, the
8 Kansas Department of Transportation, and the National
9 Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) for their
10 participation with the Amtrak feasibility study requested by
11 the Kansas Department of Transportation on February 11,
12 2008; and directing distribution

13 WHEREAS, the national passenger rail service (Amtrak),
14 heretofore known as the Heartland Flyer began operating in Oklahoma
15 on June 15, 1999; and

16 WHEREAS, the present Amtrak route terminates in Oklahoma City,
17 Oklahoma, without a northern connection to the Amtrak national
18 network; and

19 WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation commissioned
20 and received a passenger rail study in March, 2001, as produced by
21 the Carter Burgess Engineering firm which included a route
22 feasibility analysis detailing expansion cost, infrastructure need
23 between Oklahoma City and Newton, Kansas; and

24 WHEREAS, the Kansas Department of Transportation issued an
25 official request to Amtrak for study of this route segment on
26 February 11, 2008; and

1 WHEREAS, the Kansas Department of Transportation has extended
2 the original Oklahoma Carter Burgess 2001 Oklahoma City - Newton,
3 Kansas, study route to include the rail line between Newton and
4 Kansas City, Missouri, making it a full 602 mile corridor study
5 between Fort Worth, Texas, and Kansas City, Missouri; and

6 WHEREAS, federal matching funding has become available as
7 administered by the Federal Railroad Administration through the
8 Passenger Rail Improvement Reform Act of 2008 and through the
9 passage of H.R. 2095, the Rail Safety Improvement Act, including the
10 Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act.

11 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF
12 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 52ND OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

13 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature urges the Oklahoma Department of
14 Transportation to jointly participate with the Kansas Department of
15 Transportation in the expanded passenger rail service study as a
16 part of a new passenger rail transportation corridor between the
17 points of Kansas City and Fort Worth, Texas.

18 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature fully accepts the findings of the
19 Amtrak study requested by the Kansas Department of Transportation on
20 February 11, 2008, as factual and as an accepted guideline for
21 Oklahoma passenger rail development.

22 THAT the Oklahoma Legislature urges the Oklahoma Department of
23 Transportation to develop a comprehensive passenger rail plan which

1 can be submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation under the
2 guidelines of the Passenger Rail Improvement and Reform Act as a
3 requirement to procure federal matching funds as administered by the
4 Federal Railroad Administration.

5 THAT the Secretary of State shall distribute copies of this
6 resolution to the Governor, to the Governor of Kansas, to the
7 Oklahoma Secretary of Transportation, to the Kansas Secretary of
8 Transportation, to each member of the Oklahoma Congressional
9 Delegation, and to each member of the Kansas Congressional
10 Delegation.

11 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, dated 2-17-09 - DO
12 PASS, As Coauthored.