

THIS WEEK ON THE FLYER CORRIDOR

July 5, 2010

NorthFlyer.org

Interim Study Denied by Oklahoma House Leadership

Oklahoma House Leadership has denied an interim study request for the *Kansas City – Wichita – Fort Worth* and *Tulsa – Oklahoma City* passenger rail corridors. Cost for expanded state passenger rail service is the likely issue. The rejection is NOT stopping House supporters from performing a fact finding study outside formal House procedures. The 2011 and 2012 legislative sessions are considered key for state lawmakers who will decide if and how Oklahoma will contribute to passenger rail expansion beyond Oklahoma City.

South Central High Speed Rail Corridor Activity

ODOT's David Streb stated in the June 28 *Journal Record* that ODOT and TxDOT will submit a group-of-states application to study the *Tulsa – Oklahoma City – Fort Worth – San Antonio* South Central High Speed Rail Corridor. Oklahoma's grant request will include \$3.5 million to perform an environmental impact study for the *Oklahoma City – Tulsa* route and a statewide rail plan. ODOT received a \$43 million grant earlier this year to build a new I-44 multi-modal bridge across the Arkansas River at Tulsa. This bridge will provide space for High Speed Rail access to downtown Tulsa. ODOT has committed \$125,000 to a Service Development Plan for the *Kansas City – Wichita – Fort Worth* corridor.

Amtrak Federal Funding – High Speed Rail Funding – State Funding

Congressional Fiscal Year 2011 budget decisions are being made now. Proposed House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development marks follow:

Highways: \$45 Billion

Aviation: \$16.5 Billion

Amtrak: \$1.7 Billion

HSIPR: \$1.4 Billion

Total USDOT: \$79 Billion

Not all programs listed... Source: USDOT

<http://tinyurl.com/35qzor5>

Southwest Chief Reroute/ Bustritution

Heavy rain and hail washed out 400 feet of track near Glorietta, NM last week. Amtrak detoured the *Southwest Chief*, operating daily between Chicago - Los Angeles through Wichita and Amarillo. Amtrak began busing people through the affected area in recent days. Marc Magilari of Amtrak says buses will mimic the train schedule until repairs are complete, but passengers will miss the Las Vegas and Lamy stops. Contact Amtrak at **1-800-USA-RAIL** for more details if you are traveling in the coming days.



We hope everyone had a Happy and Safe Independence Day!

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Join Our Effort...

Contact Evan Stair at sfrr@aol.com