



Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2017

State of Oklahoma

Amtrak-Oklahoma partnership

- Grants from the State of Oklahoma help support the daily *Heartland Flyer* service between Oklahoma City and Fort Worth
- Over 22,000 Oklahoma residents are members of the Amtrak Guest Rewards frequent user program

Amtrak Service & Ridership

Amtrak serves Oklahoma with one state-supported train, the *Heartland Flyer* (daily Oklahoma City-Fort Worth, Texas). The *Heartland Flyer* provides connections to the Amtrak national train network at Fort Worth.

During FY17 Amtrak served the following Oklahoma locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Boardings + Alightings</u>
Ardmore	7,287
Norman	13,039
Oklahoma City	47,644
Pauls Valley	4,740
Purcell	1,860
Total Oklahoma Station Usage:	74,570

(up 7.2% from FY16)

PRIIA Section 209 and State-Assisted Services

The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-432) required, by October 2013, an equitable arrangement of cost sharing between Amtrak and state or public agency partners that provide funding for short-distance, intercity train services. Agreements were reached with all parties, including Oklahoma, by the deadline, and the services continued to run without interruption.

The *Heartland Flyer* has been funded by the State of Oklahoma since the train began service in 1999. Oklahoma has made capital upgrades to the BNSF Railway tracks in Oklahoma, allowing for speed increases to 79 mph over segments of the route and reducing the trip time for the *Heartland Flyer*. The State of Texas has been a partner in support of operating this train since FY07.

Station Improvements

Oklahoma City: The City has embarked on \$28-million restoration and transformation of the former Santa Fe Station into a multi-modal facility. When complete, the station will continue to serve Amtrak, local bus transit, and the new light-rail system, and be able to accommodate intercity bus service. In addition to the transportation component, a new tunnel will be constructed under the BNSF Railway that will connect the station to the popular Bricktown area, on the east side of the railroad. The project is expected to be finished in 2018.

New Connecting Service

Beginning in April 2016, Amtrak initiated Thruway motorcoach service, connecting Newton, Kansas, and Oklahoma City, with a stop in Wichita, the largest city in Kansas. Wichita is now back on the Amtrak map for the first time since 1979. The thruway service provides a direct connection between Amtrak's *Southwest Chief* and the *Heartland Flyer*.

Expansion Planning

Amtrak is working with the BNSF Railway, the Chickasaw Nation, and ODOT to provide a new stop for the *Heartland Flyer* in Thackerville, which is near the Texas border. It is the site of the WinStar World Casino and Resort, the largest casino in Oklahoma.

Amtrak continues to work with state DOTs in both Oklahoma and Texas to explore options for adding frequencies to the *Heartland Flyer* service. On June 9, 2017, Amtrak operated an inspection train from Oklahoma City to Kansas City, with dignitaries, BNSF officials, and DOT representatives from Oklahoma and Kansas to see the railroad and to explore the opportunity of extending the *Heartland Flyer* to Newton, Kansas.

