



## Celebrating 11 Years of Heartland Flyer Service

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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While celebrating more than a decade of passenger rail service in the state this month, the *Heartland Flyer* continues to rank high in customer satisfaction and demonstrate continued increases in ridership.

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation will commemorate the 11<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Heartland Flyer* on Saturday, June 12 by sponsoring a celebration at Oklahoma City's Santa Fe Depot prior to the train's 8:25 a.m. departure. Complimentary coffee, bottled water and donuts will be available as part of the events at the Oklahoma City station.

With the June 12 train expected to reach capacity, ODOT rail personnel encourage passengers to purchase tickets early to guarantee a seat.

Additionally, travelers can save money as part of the celebration by taking advantage of Amtrak's offer of a 50% discount off a companion fare on the *Heartland Flyer* with the advanced purchase of an adult fare. The promotion lasts until June 27, 2010. Tickets can be purchased by calling 1-800-USA-RAIL and the Promotional Fare Code H838 must be used to take advantage of the special fare. Passengers should purchase boarding passes at least seven to 10 days in advance to guarantee available seating.

Returning to the Sooner state on June 14, 1999 after a 20-year hiatus, ridership on the *Heartland Flyer*, traveling daily from Oklahoma City to Fort Worth, TX, was up 4.6 percent last month compared to May 2009. The train has also consistently earned superior ratings in Amtrak's Customer Satisfaction Index which polls passengers about on-time performance; employee-passenger interactions; staffing levels; food service and amenities; equipment cleanliness and reliability; stations and schedules.

Daily, the *Heartland Flyer* makes five stops along the route to Fort Worth, stopping in Norman, Purcell, Pauls Valley, Ardmore and Gainesville, Texas.

Restrictions on discounts may apply for travel on certain dates, so call 800-USA-RAIL or visit [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com) or [www.heartlandflyer.com](http://www.heartlandflyer.com) for more information or to buy tickets.

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-[www.okladot.state.ok.us](http://www.okladot.state.ok.us)-

(Editors and News Directors: For more information, please call the ODOT Media & Public Relations Office at 405-521-6000.)

INFORMATION RELEASE

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