

## NEWS RELEASE

Kansas Department of Transportation News Release

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **KDOT Submits Passenger Rail Grant Applications**

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) has submitted two final grant applications totaling \$8.1 million to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for funding under the High Speed/Intercity Passenger Rail program. The applications were submitted August 24, 2009. The FRA has not set a date for announcing the awards although a late September or early October announcement is expected.

The first application is for \$7.6 million for track improvements on the Southwest Chief route between Emporia and Barclay using economic stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Due to refined cost estimates, the request is more than the \$6.95 million submitted in the pre-application. The improvements will permit the Southwest Chief to increase its average operating speed in that section.

The second application is for a \$500,000 project to prepare a Service Development Plan for intercity passenger rail service between Kansas City, Oklahoma City and Fort Worth. This grant would not use ARRA funds and requires a 50 percent state match. KDOT has committed \$250,000 toward the total project cost, of which the Oklahoma Department of Transportation has committed up to \$125,000. A Service Development Plan is a detailed, comprehensive business and operations plan for implementing passenger rail service. The Plan will be required for applicants to receive potential future federal funding for capital to implement passenger rail service.

A third application is due October 2, 2009, and will be for \$10 million for signal and crossing upgrades between Newton and the Kansas/Oklahoma state line.

The final applications are available on the KDOT Passenger Rail website at [www.ksdot.org/passrail](http://www.ksdot.org/passrail).

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NOTE: This information is available in alternative accessible formats. To obtain an alternative format, contact the Bureau of Transportation Information, Eisenhower Building, 700 SW Harrison, 2nd Floor West, Topeka, Kan., 66603-3754, or (785) 296-3585 (Voice)/Hearing Impaired - 711.