



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

News Release

November 20, 2009

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CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION WELCOMES PASSENGERS DURING BUSY THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

CHICAGO – More than 2.4 million passengers are expected to travel through Chicago's airports for the Thanksgiving holiday travel period beginning today through Monday, November 30, 2009. The busiest travel day at Midway International Airport is projected to be Sunday, November 29, with more than 72,000 passengers expected. Monday, November 30 will be the busiest travel day at O'Hare International Airport with more than 200,000 passengers expected.

"We welcome travelers from near and abroad to Chicago's airports as they make their way to friends and family this Thanksgiving holiday," said Aviation Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino. "The Chicago Department of Aviation and all of our partners are working diligently to provide a safe and efficient travel experience at O'Hare and Midway, while creating a festive atmosphere for our customers."

Live music entertainment will be showcased at both O'Hare and Midway in the terminals featuring holiday-themed jazz, classical, blues and international selections on Wednesday, November 25, from 2 to 5 p.m. Performances at O'Hare will take place beyond the security checkpoints in each domestic terminal and in the Arrivals Level of International Terminal 5. Live music at Midway will take place in the Baggage Claim area.

The USO (United Service Organizations) at O'Hare will set up welcome tables in each domestic terminal on Wednesday, November 25 and Friday, November 27, to provide hospitality bags to active military personnel. The Midway USO center is located on the secure side of the airport and is easily accessible to traveling military personnel and their families. The USO centers at both airports will remain open throughout the holiday period.

Chicago Department of Aviation Thanksgiving Travel Tips

The following tips will help make travel through Chicago's airports more convenient and enjoyable:

Getting to the Airport

Passengers should allow time for traveling to the airports, ticketing and checking baggage. It is recommended that all passengers arrive at least two hours before their scheduled flight departure.

- More -

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY TRAVEL 2009/page two

Parking at the Airport

O'Hare's hourly parking rates are \$2.00 for the first hour and \$4.00 for the second and third hours in the parking garage.

Midway's parking rates are \$2.00 for 10 minutes to 30 minutes, \$4.00 for one hour or less, \$6.00 for two hours or less and \$2.00 for each additional hour.

The Chicago Department of Aviation's cell phone parking lots enable motorists to temporarily park free of charge until friends, family members or business associates are ready to be picked up curbside.

At O'Hare, the cell phone lot is located at Economy Parking Lot F. Exit I-190 at North Mannheim Road and follow the signs to Economy Parking Lot F/Cell Phone Lot. A billboard-size flight information display is located in the O'Hare cell phone parking lot for the convenience of motorists who are picking up passengers. The screen displays real-time flight arrival information and is viewable from anywhere within the parking lot.

The Midway cell phone parking lot is located at 61st Street and Cicero Avenue, just south of the main airport entrance.

Real-time parking availability information for both O'Hare and Midway is posted on www.flychicago.com.

Motorists are reminded that curbside parking is prohibited and unattended and parked vehicles will be ticketed and towed.

Security Checkpoint Preparation

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) operates "Family Lanes" at each security checkpoint at O'Hare to provide a better screening experience for families and individuals with medically necessary liquids. These lanes allow families, individuals unfamiliar with air travel procedures, and travelers with special needs to go through security at their own pace.

At Midway, the TSA operates its "Diamond Self-Select" program, featuring separate lanes for Expert, Casual and Family travelers.

The TSA recommends that travelers pack carry-on bags neatly to eliminate clutter; have ID and boarding pass out and ready before entering the checkpoint queue; take coats and shoes off; and remember 3-1-1 for liquids, gels or aerosols in carry-on bags. Visit www.tsa.gov for more information.

Additional Airport Amenities

Both airports offer a wide variety of food and beverage, and retail options, including many local favorites that help provide a Chicago experience for travelers.

O'Hare and Midway each support an interfaith chapel for worship and meditation. The chapel at O'Hare is located in Terminal 2 on the mezzanine level (pre-security) and the Midway chapel is located in Concourse C on the mezzanine level (post-security). There is also a medical clinic at O'Hare operated by staff of the University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC). The clinic is located in the main corridor that connects Terminals 2 and 3 (airside).

- More -

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY TRAVEL 2009/page three

Wi-Fi is offered pre- and post-security. The fee is \$6.95 for 24-hour period through the Boingo Network. Once initiated, the service can be used at other Boingo-affiliated locations throughout the U.S. during the paid period.

The Chicago Children's Museum operates two play areas at O'Hare in Terminals 2 and 5. In the "Kids on the Fly" play area in Terminal 2, children can interact with airport models such as an airplane, control tower and helicopter. The "Play It Safe" area in Terminal 5 features an interactive fire safety exhibit, where children can learn about fire and home safety.

At O'Hare, fresh flowers are now available at two locations in Terminal 1 - in the baggage claim area, as well as in Concourse C.

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The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) is self-supporting, using no local or state tax dollars for operations or capital improvements at O'Hare and Midway International airports. Together, Chicago's airports generate more than \$45 billion in annual economic activity and create 540,000 jobs for the region. Please visit www.flychicago.com to learn more about the Chicago Department of Aviation.

The CDA continues to incorporate and expand sustainable initiatives for airport planning, operations and maintenance, concessions and tenants in accordance with the CDA Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM), released in August 2009. To view case studies, lessons learned and new technologies, and for more information on the new Sustainable Airports Manual (SAM), please visit www.airportgoinggreen.org.

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP), introduced by Mayor Richard M. Daley in June 2001, transforms O'Hare's airfield from an outdated system of intersecting runways into a modern parallel runway configuration. The program will reduce overall delays at the Airport by 79 percent, and bad weather delays by 95 percent. It will create 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion in additional economic activity each year. Please visit www.oharemodernization.org to learn more about the OMP.

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