

August 23, 2006

Mayor's Press Office
(312) 744-3334

Wendy Abrams
Department of Aviation
(773) 686-3700

**MAYOR DALEY ACCEPTS \$10.6 MILLION FAA GRANT
TO REHABILITATE O'HARE AIRPORT RUNWAY**

Mayor Richard M. Daley thanked Federal Aviation Administrator Marion C. Blakey today for a \$10.6 million grant to the City of Chicago to support the rehabilitation of Runway 4R/22L at O'Hare International Airport. The grant will be used initially to resurface the runway and extend its useful life.

"This grant shows that the federal government places a high priority on O'Hare and values its important role in the national and international aviation network," the Mayor said at a news conference at O'Hare. "I thank Administrator Blakey for this grant and for her continuing support of our efforts to improve O'Hare and Midway airports, so we can keep our nation's economy strong."

The grant also includes \$1,125,000 for the design of an Engineered Materials Arresting System, or EMAS, on O'Hare's Runway 4R/22L. The second phase of the project will involve the installation of an EMAS on each runway end.

"The FAA has been a wonderful partner to Chicago's airports in terms of investing in innovative projects and new technologies that will make our runways safer," said Chicago Aviation Commissioner Nuria I. Fernandez. "The rehabilitation work on Runway 4R/22L is already in progress and we hope to begin work on EMAS as soon as next year."

Daley noted that O'Hare generates 540,000 jobs and \$45 billion in economic activity for this area. The O'Hare Modernization Program, which has received the federal go-ahead, is expected to generate an additional \$18 billion of annual economic activity and create between 50,000 and 195,000 jobs.

"But Marion Blakey doesn't just serve Chicago," he said. "She's accountable to all the people of the United States, and she's committed to acting in their best interests. And she understands that O'Hare is a vital and indispensable part of the nation's air transportation system. As our nation's economy becomes increasingly reliant on international trade and commerce, O'Hare International Airport will become even more important to the future of our nation."

###