



Press Office
City of Chicago, Department of Aviation
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News Release

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CHICAGO'S AIRPORTS FORECAST RECORD SUMMER TRAVEL

O'Hare and Midway are ready, willing and able to manage projected increase in passenger volume

CHICAGO - The Chicago Airport System will welcome more than 1.725 million travelers at O'Hare and Midway International Airports over the extended Memorial Day weekend. O'Hare's busiest travel day will be Friday, May 25, with more than 258,000 passengers traveling through the airport. The average number of passengers on a regular travel day is 209,000. Nearly 77,000 passengers are expected at Midway Airport on Friday, compared to an average of approximately 51,000.

Overall, the Department of Aviation expects a one percent growth in passenger enplanements over last year, making this summer the busiest in O'Hare's history. Midway Airport anticipates a one to three percent increase in passenger volume over last year. July is projected to be the busiest month at both O'Hare and Midway, though some of the busiest travel days will be in late June.

"The summer season is always a busy time at Chicago's airports and this year will be no exception," said Chicago Aviation Commissioner Nuria I. Fernandez. "By working closely with our partner airlines and agencies, we are ready, willing and able to manage the projected increase in passenger volume."

Travelers should be aware of the following new features and services in place this summer aimed at making travel through Chicago's airports easier and more enjoyable:

- Flight Information Display systems are being installed at the Clark/Lake CTA Station to provide up-to-the-minute departure information to passengers traveling to O'Hare and Midway Airports. The Clark/Lake Station connects Blue Line travelers to O'Hare and Orange Line travelers to Midway and is the primary transfer point at which the two transit lines merge. Having flight departure information available within the station provides a measure of comfort to travelers who can see if their flight is on-time even before they arrive at the airport. Installation is expected to be completed in late June.
- O'Hare recently celebrated the opening of La Tapenade Mediterranean Café, a new upscale eatery located in Terminal 1. The full service café serves breakfast, lunch and dinner including international dishes made from ingredients such as homemade chutneys, Tzatziki sauces, hummus, fire roasted vegetables, fine cheeses and specialty grilled meats. Sourdough bread, focaccia, ciabatta and hand-made Mediterranean flatbreads are baked fresh daily. Travelers can also choose from baklava, chocolate tulip cups with white chocolate mousse, savarins, lemon meringue or coconut tarts and a variety of berry danishes and croissants. Beer and wine varietals from throughout the world are served at the full bar.

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- Passengers traveling through Chicago's airports on June 1, 7, 8, July 3 and August 31 will enjoy the Department of Aviation's "Music in the Air" entertainment program. To accommodate connecting passengers who are unable to attend the larger Gospel, Blues and Jazz Fests taking place in downtown Chicago, the Department has scheduled bands showcasing the talent, neighborhoods and cultural diversity of the City. Live performances will take place beyond the security checkpoints in all O'Hare and Midway Airport terminals from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- The United Service Organizations (USO) of Illinois recently hosted a grand re-opening of its "Home Away From Home" for military personnel and their families at O'Hare Airport. With help from the CNA Foundation, USO of Illinois is able to provide a 24-hour center in which Armed Forces visiting Chicago can relax, enjoy a meal, check e-mail, phone home and readjust to life before returning home or being deployed.

The Chicago Department of Aviation provides the following "Top Three" summer travel tips:

1. Use our cell phone parking lots. Since these lots opened nearly one year ago, an average of 10,000 motorists use the lot at O'Hare each month. At Midway, monthly activity averages between 17,000 and 20,000 vehicles.

Cell phone lots enable motorists to temporarily park free of charge until friends, family members or business associates have deplaned, collected baggage and called to be picked up curbside. At O'Hare, the 150-space lot is located at Economy Parking Lot F. The 90-space lot at Midway is located at 61st and Cicero Avenue just south of the main airport entrance.

2. Get free, real-time flight information delivered to your cell phones, Blackberry and laptop computer. The Department of Aviation has sent nearly 23,000 responses to travelers' mobile devices since the launch of this service two months ago.

O'Hare travelers can compose an e-mail to arrivals@ohare.com or departures@ohare.com, leaving the subject line blank. Midway travelers can use arrivals@midwayairport.org and departures@midwayairport.org. The first line of the body of the message should contain one or more of the following: the flight number, the time that the flight is scheduled to arrive or depart, the name of the airline or the airline's two-letter code, the originating or destination airport, and either the name of the city or the three-letter airport code. A response will be sent within minutes.

3. Remember 3-1-1. If planning to travel with liquids, gels or aerosols in carry-on bags, passengers must pack them in 3 ounce or smaller containers; containers must be in a 1 quart-size, clear, plastic, zip-top bag and placed in the security bin. Only one zip-top bag is permitted per traveler.

For travelers who have mistakenly brought prohibited items with them to the security checkpoint, Mail Safe Express provides another option to keep their personal items by choosing to mail them home securely. Since the program began at O'Hare last December, Mail Safe has collected nearly 6,000 items. The kiosks are a one-stop packaging, payment and vaulted drop-off station that allow passengers to mail items to domestic or international addresses or hold items at a secure location for pick-up upon return to the airport. All major credits cards are accepted for payment.

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O'Hare travelers should also be aware that two lanes of traffic on the upper level, inner roadway between Terminals 2 and 3 will be closed from now through mid-November 2007. Traffic Management Authority personnel have been assigned to this location to ensure that traffic on the roadways is continuously moving. Colleagues, friends and family members should allow extra time and plan accordingly if they are dropping travelers off curbside on the departures level.

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The Chicago Airport System 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 Airport System.

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