



**SOCIAL STORY:**

# **MY TRIP TO THE AIRPORT (DEPARTURE)**



**MAYOR BRANDON JOHNSON**

# 1

## Arriving at the Airport

I will go to the airport with my family or friends.

We will park the car or take a ride to the entrance.

The airport will be busy and noisy, but that's okay.

### How I Might Feel:

I might feel excited, curious, or even a little nervous about all the people and noises.

That's okay! If I feel overwhelmed, I can take deep breaths or focus on my family or friends.



Dense Crowds



Lots of Distractions

# 2

## Checking In

We will go to the check-in counter or use a machine to get my boarding pass.

I will give my ID and luggage to the staff or put my bag on a scale.

They will give me a ticket with my flight information.

### How I Might Feel:

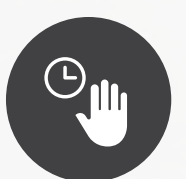
I might feel impatient if the line is long or unsure about talking to the staff. That's okay! I can hold onto a favorite object or quietly count while I wait.



Dense Crowds



Lots of Distractions



Wait

# 3

## Going Through Security

I will wait in line at security.

A person will check my ID and boarding pass.

I will put my shoes, bag, and other items on a tray.

The tray will go through a machine.

I might walk through a scanner.

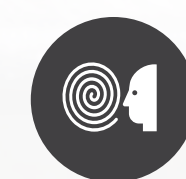
Security officers are there to help keep everyone safe.

### How I Might Feel:

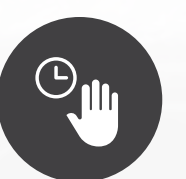
Going through security may make me feel nervous, scared, or uncomfortable. That's okay! I need to remember to keep my body calm and follow the security officers' directions. I can take deep breaths, squeeze my hands, or count to 10 to help my body relax.



Dense Crowds



Lots of Distractions



Wait

# 4

## Walking to the Gate

After security, we will walk to our gate.

The gate is the place where we wait to get on the plane.

I might see shops, restaurants, or lots of people.

We will sit and wait until it's time to board.

### How I Might Feel:

I might feel tired from walking or bored while waiting. That's okay! I can read, listen to music, or play with a small toy to help pass the time.



Dense Crowds



Lots of Distractions



Strong Smells

# 5

## Boarding the Plane

When it's time, an announcement will say our group can board.

I will walk with my family or friends to the plane door.

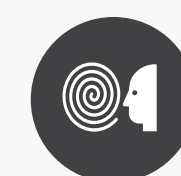
I will show my boarding pass to the staff.

### How I Might Feel:

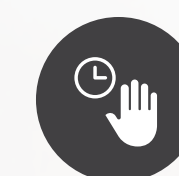
I might feel excited to get on the plane or a little anxious about what comes next. That's okay! I can take deep breaths and remember that the flight attendants are there to help.



Dense Crowds



Lots of Distractions



Wait

# 6

## Finding My Seat

Inside the plane, I will find my seat.

I will put my bag under the seat or in the overhead bin.

I will sit in my chair and buckle my seatbelt.

### How I Might Feel:

I might feel happy to sit down or unsure about being in a new space. That's okay! I can hold on to a comfort item or ask for help if I need it.



# 7

## The Plane Takes Off

The plane will drive slowly on the ground.

Then the plane will go fast and lift into the air.

My ears might feel funny, but I can chew gum or swallow to help.

### How I Might Feel:

I might feel excited or a little nervous when the plane moves fast. That's okay! I can close my eyes, listen to calming music, or hold on to my seat if it helps me feel safe.



# 8

## Enjoying the Flight

I can read, watch something, or relax in my seat.

I will listen to the flight attendants and follow the rules.

### How I Might Feel:

I might feel relaxed or maybe a little restless sitting for a long time. That's okay! I can stretch in my seat, take deep breaths, or focus on a fun activity.



# 9

## Landing

When the plane lands, it will slow down and stop.

I will wait for my turn to get off the plane.

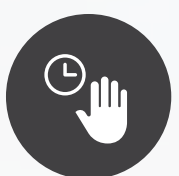
The airport is a busy place, but I can stay calm and enjoy my trip!



Dense Crowds



Lots of Distractions

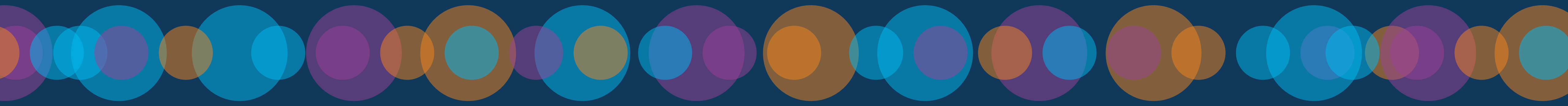


Wait



# SENSORY MAPS

O'HARE & MIDWAY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS



## How to use the sensory map

Review the legend first to understand colors and symbols indicating sensory input levels.

Identify low-sensory and calm spots along your route for potential breaks.

Note high-sensory areas, checkpoints, and bottlenecks to anticipate and manage sensory challenges.

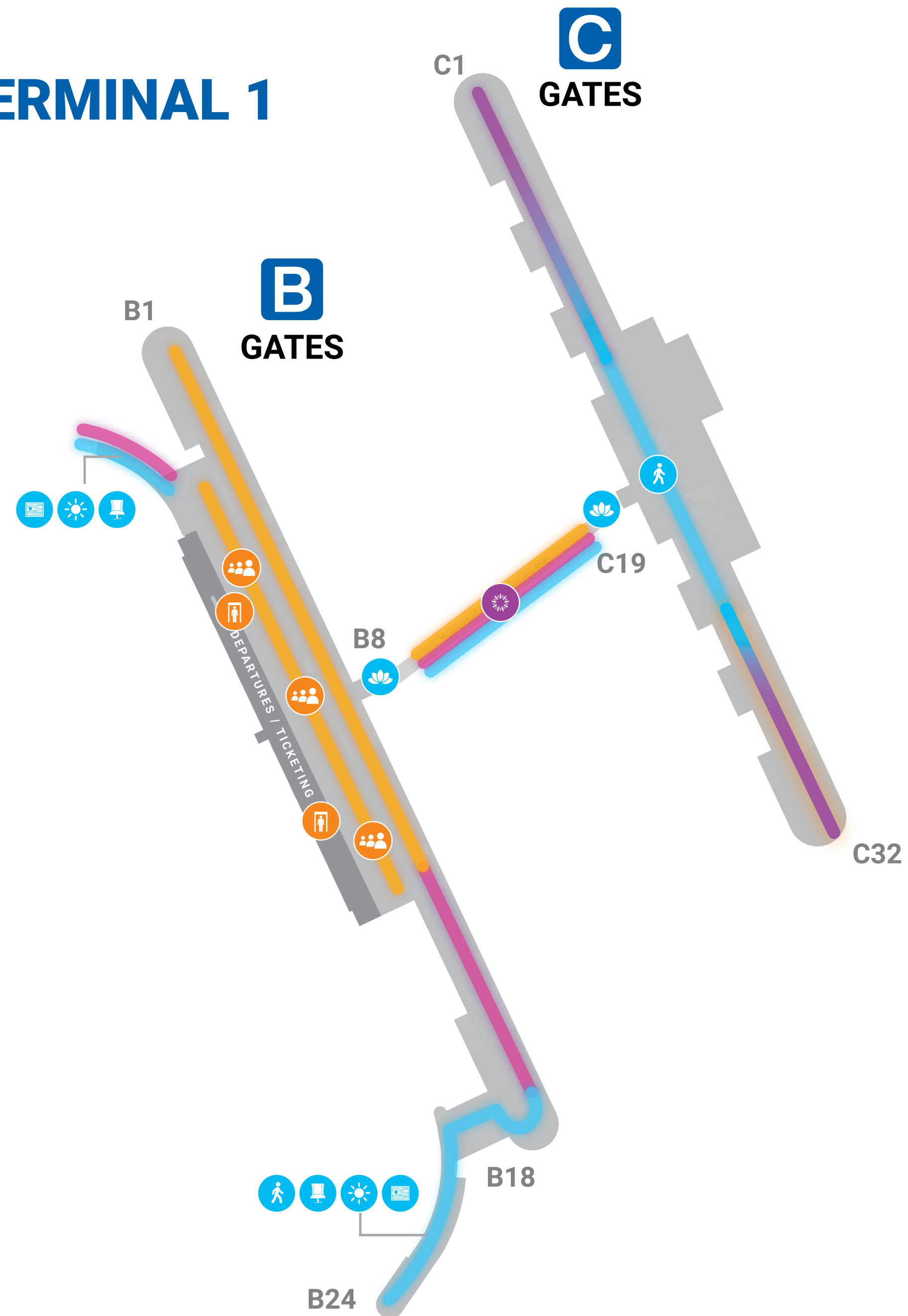
Look for resource/support icons if you need assistance or a quiet space.

### LEGEND

- High Sensory
- Medium Sensory
- Low Sensory

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Art                  | Resources/Support   |
| Beeping Sounds       | Seating             |
| Calm Spot            | Security Checkpoint |
| Dense Crowds         | Sensory Zone        |
| Lots of Distractions | Strong Smells       |
| Low Light            | Wait                |
| Low Noise            | Walking Space       |
| Natural Light        | Yoga                |
| Open Space           |                     |

## O'HARE » TERMINAL 1



# How to use the sensory map

Review the legend first to understand colors and symbols indicating sensory input levels.

Identify low-sensory and calm spots along your route for potential breaks.

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Look for resource/support icons if you need assistance or a quiet space.

## LEGEND

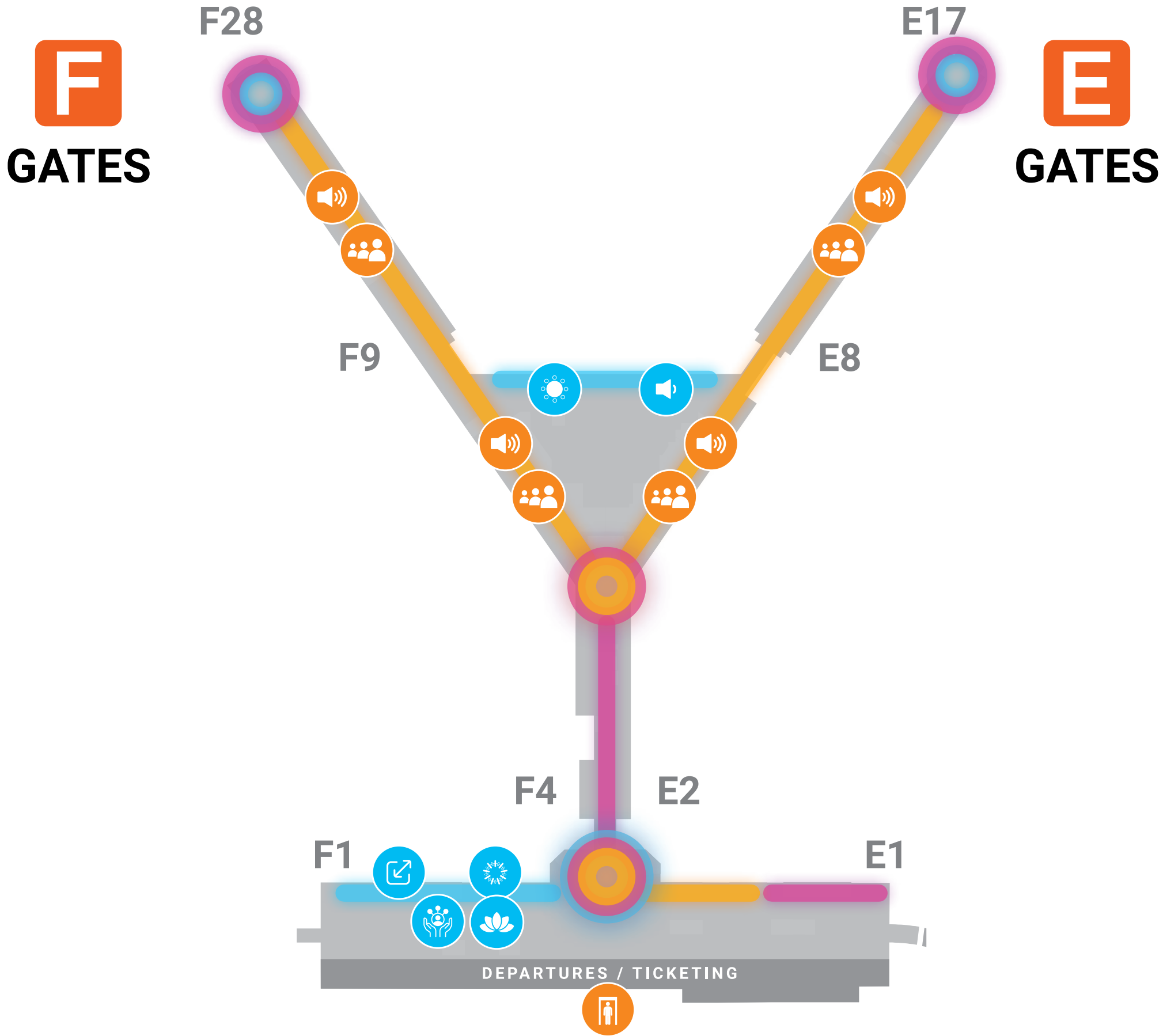
 High Sensory

 Medium Sensory

 Low Sensory

- |  |   |
|--|---|
|  Art                   |  Resources/Support    |
|  Beeping Sounds       |  Seating             |
|  Calm Spot            |  Security Checkpoint |
|  Dense Crowds         |  Sensory Zone        |
|  Lots of Distractions |  Strong Smells       |
|  Low Light            |  Wait                |
|  Low Noise            |  Walking Space       |
|  Natural Light        |  Yoga                |
|  Open Space           |   |

# O'HARE » TERMINAL 2



## How to use the sensory map

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Note high-sensory areas, checkpoints, and bottlenecks to anticipate and manage sensory challenges.

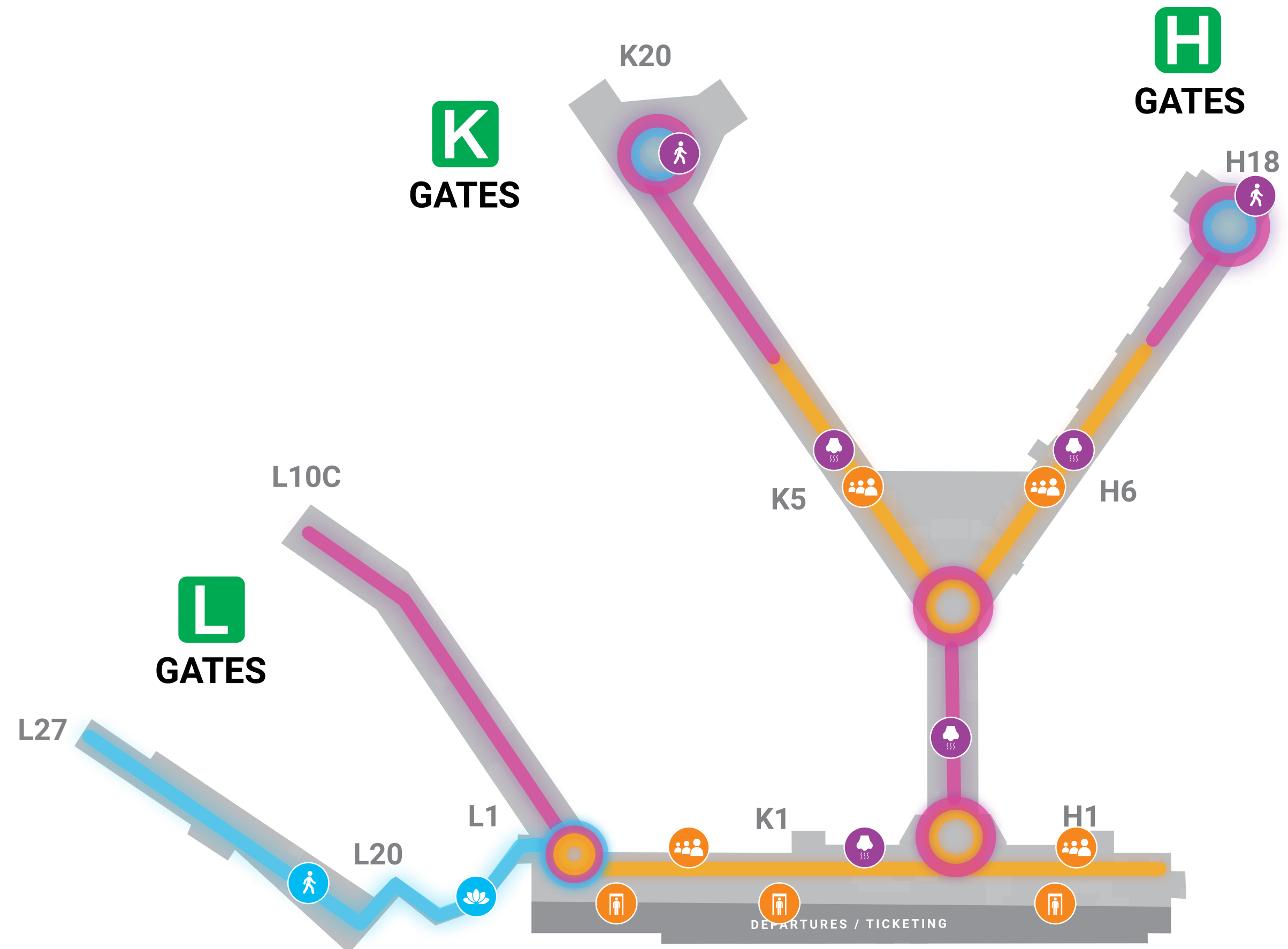
Look for resource/support icons if you need assistance or a quiet space.

### LEGEND

- High Sensory
- Medium Sensory
- Low Sensory

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Art                  | Resources/Support   |
| Beeping Sounds       | Seating             |
| Calm Spot            | Security Checkpoint |
| Dense Crowds         | Sensory Zone        |
| Lots of Distractions | Strong Smells       |
| Low Light            | Wait                |
| Low Noise            | Walking Space       |
| Natural Light        | Yoga                |
| Open Space           |                     |

## O'HARE » TERMINAL 3



## How to use the sensory map

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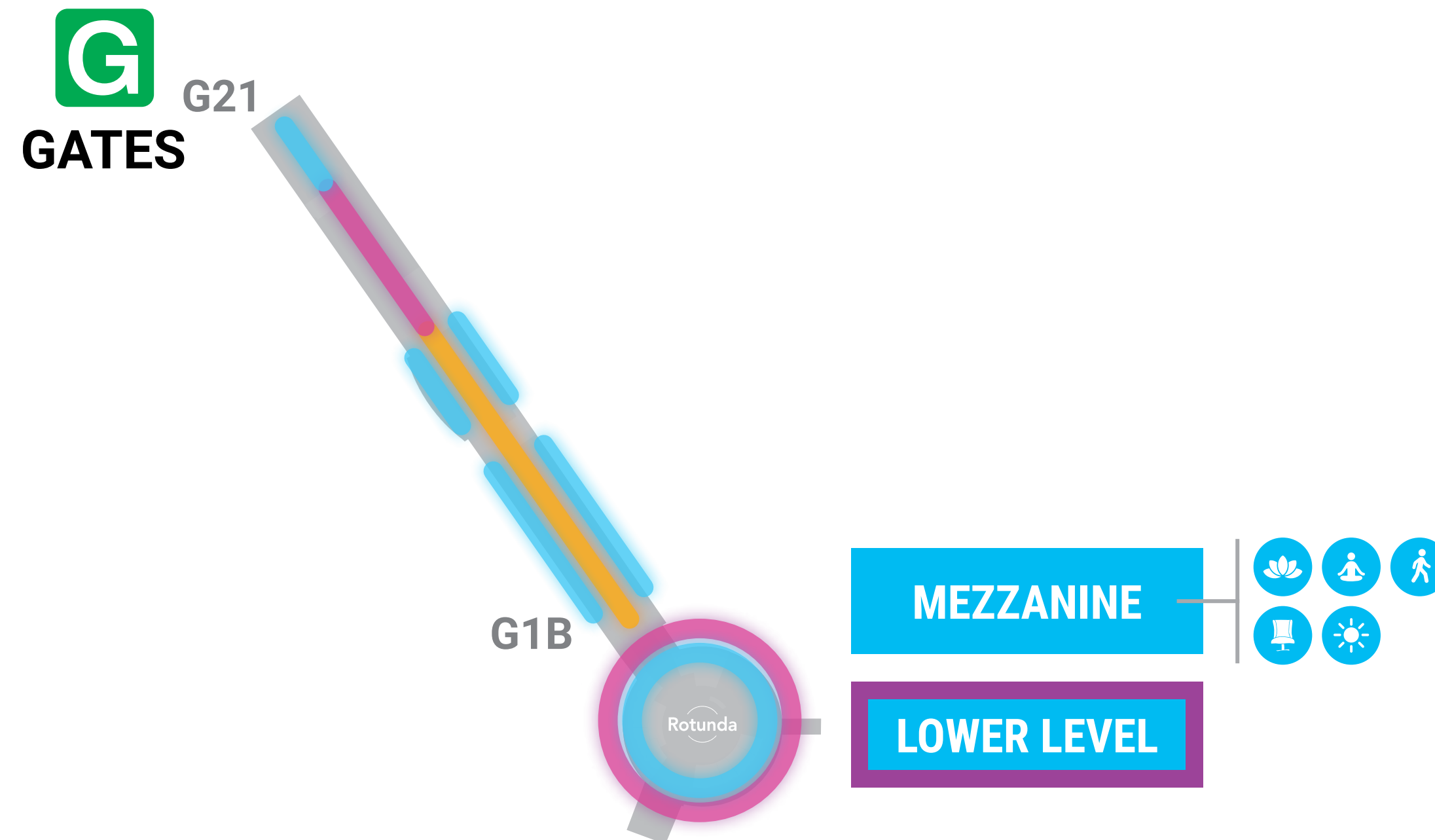
Look for resource/support icons if you need assistance or a quiet space.

### LEGEND

- High Sensory
- Medium Sensory
- Low Sensory

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Art                  | Resources/Support   |
| Beeping Sounds       | Seating             |
| Calm Spot            | Security Checkpoint |
| Dense Crowds         | Sensory Zone        |
| Lots of Distractions | Strong Smells       |
| Low Light            | Wait                |
| Low Noise            | Walking Space       |
| Natural Light        | Yoga                |
| Open Space           |                     |

## O'HARE » TERMINAL 3



## How to use the sensory map

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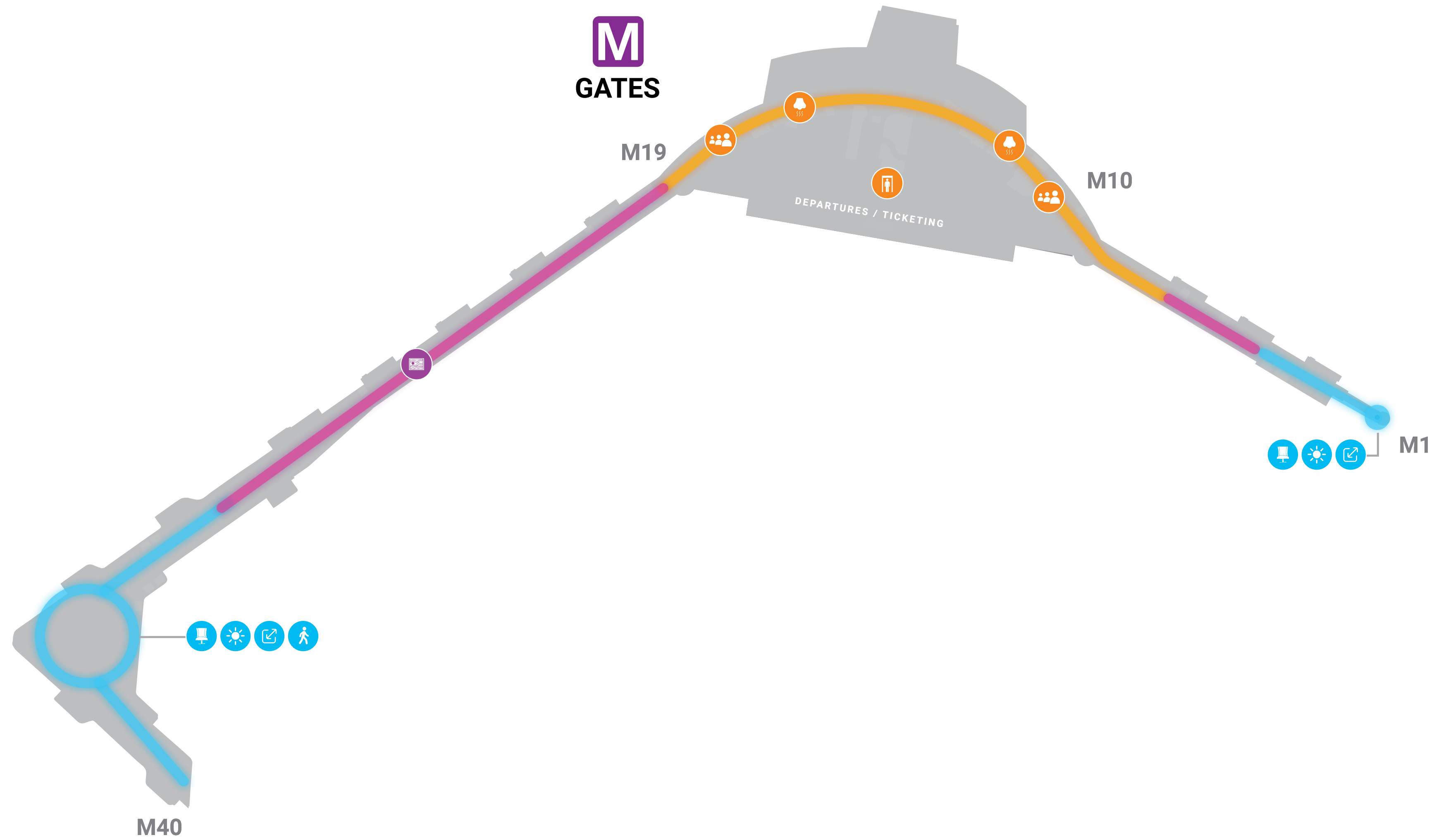
Look for resource/support icons if you need assistance or a quiet space.

### LEGEND

- High Sensory
- Medium Sensory
- Low Sensory

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Art                  | Resources/Support   |
| Beeping Sounds       | Seating             |
| Calm Spot            | Security Checkpoint |
| Dense Crowds         | Sensory Zone        |
| Lots of Distractions | Strong Smells       |
| Low Light            | Wait                |
| Low Noise            | Walking Space       |
| Natural Light        | Yoga                |
| Open Space           |                     |

## O'HARE » TERMINAL 5



# How to use the sensory map

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Look for resource/support icons if you need assistance or a quiet space.

## LEGEND

High Sensory

Medium Sensory

Low Sensory

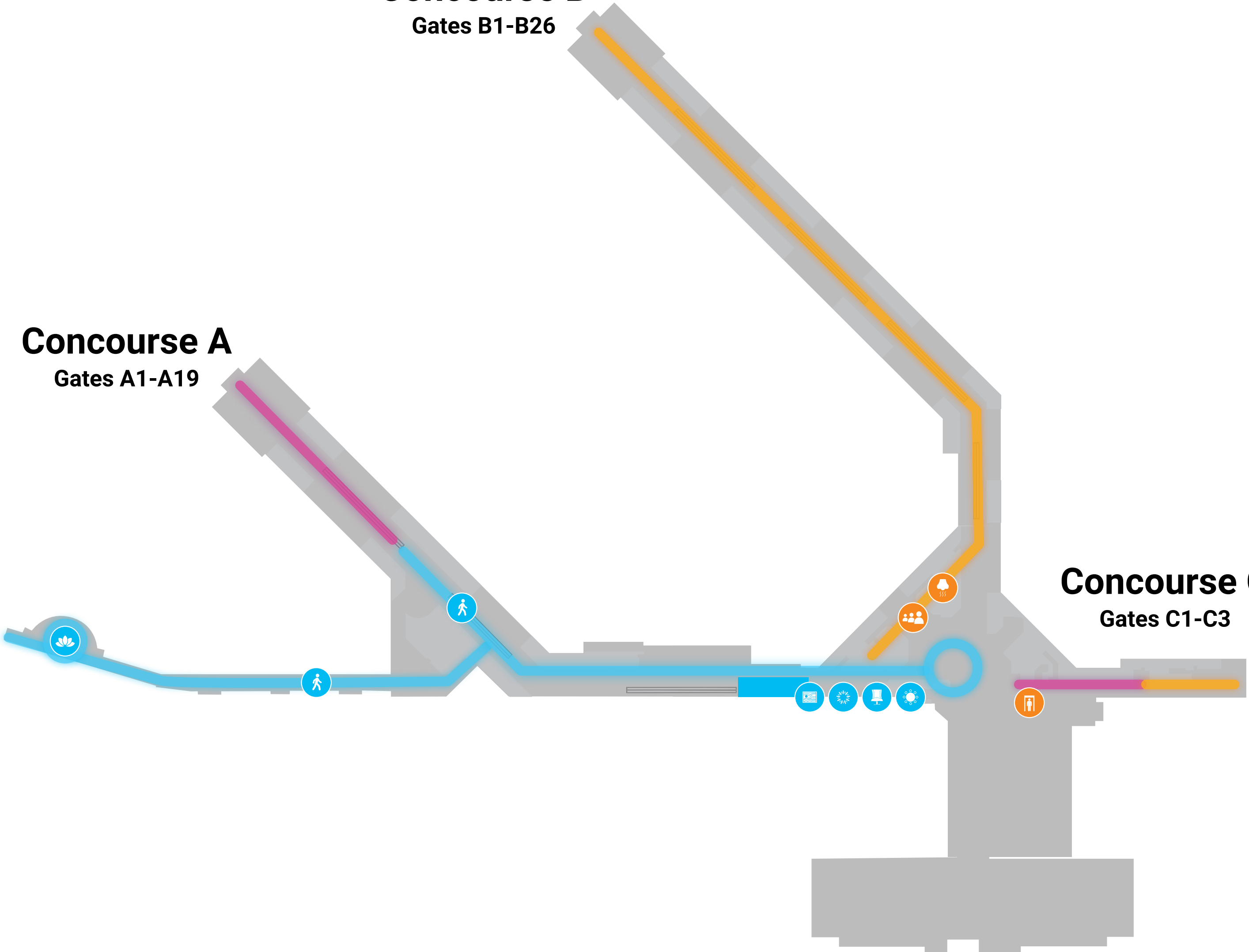
- Art
- Beeping Sounds
- Calm Spot
- Dense Crowds
- Lots of Distractions
- Low Light
- Low Noise
- Natural Light
- Open Space
- Resources/Support
- Seating
- Security Checkpoint
- Sensory Zone
- Strong Smells
- Wait
- Walking Space
- Yoga

# MIDWAY

Concourse B  
Gates B1-B26

Concourse A  
Gates A1-A19

Concourse C  
Gates C1-C3



# Sensory Information on Midway & O'Hare

Scan the QR code or visit  
[flychicago.com/Sensory](https://flychicago.com/Sensory)



MAYOR BRANDON JOHNSON

