



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner



# News Release

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**Karen E. Pride**

**(773) 686-3700**

**[kpride@ohare.com](mailto:kpride@ohare.com)**

## **CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION PREPARES FOR BUSY HOLIDAY WEEKEND**

*O'Hare and Midway expect more passengers compared to Labor Day 2008*

CHICAGO – More than 1.4 million passengers are expected to travel through O'Hare and Midway International Airports beginning today through Tuesday, September 8 as the summer season culminates this Labor Day weekend. The holiday weekend's projected passenger volume at both airports represents an increase over last year during the same period.

The busiest day at both airports will be Friday, September 4, with more than 205,000 passengers projected to travel through O'Hare and more than 70,000 passengers expected at Midway.

"The Chicago Department of Aviation has worked diligently throughout the summer to ensure a safe and enjoyable travel season for passengers at our airports," said Aviation Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino. "This weekend we're featuring live jazz music at O'Hare and Midway to coincide with the City's downtown festival and to create a vibrant and relaxing atmosphere for travelers."

### **Experience Live Entertainment, New Concessions and Exhibits**

Passengers are encouraged to check out the live entertainment, new concessions and engaging exhibits at O'Hare and Midway this weekend, including:

#### Music in the Air Program:

Passengers traveling through both airports will experience a taste of Chicago's rich musical heritage. In conjunction with the City of Chicago's annual Jazz Fest this weekend, local jazz quartets will perform at both airports on Thursday, September 3 and Friday, September 4 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.

#### Concessions:

Several restaurants and shops, including many Chicago favorites, have opened or expanded locations this year at O'Hare including: Argo Tea, Auntie Anne's, Barbara's Bookstore, Brioche Doree, Field Museum Store, Harley-Davidson, Jamba Juice, Nuts on Clark, Oakley Eyewear and Tech Showcase. In addition, fresh flowers are now sold at each Hudson News location in the domestic baggage claim areas at O'Hare.

**Exhibits:**

- **“Explore Chicago” Technology Lounges.** The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) has partnered with the Chicago Office of Tourism, Hewlett-Packard, Gigapan and NASA to host two high-tech “Explore Chicago” lounges in Terminal 2 at O’Hare and 50 HP TouchSmart PC kiosks at O’Hare and Midway. Each kiosk lets travelers interact with Chicago’s new tourism Web site, [www.explorechicago.org](http://www.explorechicago.org), and view high-resolution images of Chicago’s most iconic locations. The “Explore Chicago” exhibit was recently awarded first place in the Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA) 2009 Excellence in Marketing and Communications Contest.
- **NASA Photo Exhibit.** The Adler Planetarium and the CDA are hosting a photo exhibit, *From Earth to the Universe*, on display through the end of the year at O’Hare International Airport. The stunning collection of more than 50 astronomical images showcases dramatic views from our Universe. The exhibit is located in the pedestrian walkway tunnel near the O’Hare CTA Blue Line station.
- “Have No Narrow Perspective” is an extended drawing of Anish Kapoor’s landmark “Cloud Gate” sculpture, created by identical twin artists Ryan and Trevor Gates. The sculpture is on display in Terminal 2, just north of the “Explore Chicago” exhibit.
- An exhibit entitled “Make Big Plans: Daniel Burnham’s Vision of an American Metropolis” is on display at O’Hare and Midway. The panels feature beautiful illustrations, maps and historic photos outlining the 1909 *Plan of Chicago* by Chicago architects Daniel H. Burnham, Jr. and Edward H. Bennett. The O’Hare exhibit is located in Terminal 2 near the University of Illinois-Chicago Medical Clinic (airside) and the Midway exhibit is located in the CTA pedestrian walkway.

**Additional Airport Amenities**

Both airports 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. The clinic is located in the main corridor that connects Terminals 2 and 3 (airside).

Wi-Fi: 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.

Recycling – The CDA has a global recycling program with bins located throughout the terminals at both airports.

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### **Chicago Department of Aviation Summer Travel Tips**

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

#### Getting to the Airport:

Travelers 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.

Travelers are encouraged to take advantage of the public transportation options available to both O'Hare and Midway. The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Blue line to O'Hare and Orange line to Midway are convenient ways to get to the airports and the Loop while avoiding roadway congestion.

The Metra North Central Service has five weekday inbound and outbound trains between O'Hare and Chicago's Union Station (note: there is no Metra service on Labor Day). Regional bus service is also available to and from both airports. PACE provides regional bus service to O'Hare which terminates at the Airport Transit System (ATS) Kiss 'n' Fly.

#### Parking at the Airport:

Midway's parking garage rates are \$2 for 10 minutes to 30 minutes, \$4 for 1 hour or less, \$6 for 2 hours or less and \$2 for each additional hour. O'Hare's hourly parking rates are \$2 for the first hour and \$4 for the second and third hours.

Cost-conscious travelers can take advantage of O'Hare's two economy parking lots, priced at \$9 and \$13 per day. Midway's economy lots, located along 55th Street, are reasonably priced at \$14 per day. Real-time parking availability information for both O'Hare and Midway is posted on [www.flychicago.com](http://www.flychicago.com).

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 have deplaned, collected baggage and are ready to be picked up curbside.

At O'Hare, the 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 lot is located at 61<sup>st</sup> Street and Cicero Avenue, just south of the main airport entrance.

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 reminds travelers to pack an organized carry-on bag and have their boarding pass and ID ready for inspection at the checkpoint. Remember 3-1-1 for carry-on bags: 3.4 ounce bottle or less (by volume); 1 quart-sized, clear, plastic, zip-top bag; 1 bag per passenger placed in the screening bin.

Review the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) permitted and prohibited items list online at [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) prior to traveling to expedite passing through the screening checkpoint.

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The Chicago Department of Aviation 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](http://www.flychicago.com) to learn more about the Chicago Department of Aviation.

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](http://www.oharemodernization.org) to learn more about the OMP.

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