



News Release

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NEARLY 1.7 MILLION PASSENGERS EXPECTED TO TRAVEL THROUGH CHICAGO'S AIRPORTS DURING THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY PERIOD

CHICAGO – The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) anticipates that nearly 1.7 million passengers will travel through Chicago's airports for the Thanksgiving holiday travel period between Tuesday, November 22 and Monday November 28, 2011. Airlines project that the busiest travel day at O'Hare International Airport will be Wednesday, November 23, with nearly 217,000 passengers. Sunday, November 27 is projected to be the busiest travel day at Midway International Airport, with nearly 75,000 passengers expected.

"On behalf of Mayor Rahm Emanuel, we are pleased to welcome passengers traveling through O'Hare and Midway International Airports as they make their way to friends and family this Thanksgiving holiday," said CDA Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino. "The CDA and all of its airline and airport partners are ready to provide a safe, efficient and festive travel experience at O'Hare and Midway."

There will be live music entertainment at both O'Hare and Midway; including holiday-themed jazz, classical, blues and international selections on Wednesday, November 23, from 2 p.m. 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. Entertainment at Midway will take place in the Baggage Claim area.

The USO (United Service Organizations) center at O'Hare will set up welcome tables past security checkpoints in each domestic terminal from noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 22, Wednesday, November 23 and Sunday, November 27, to provide baked goods and water bottles to traveling military personnel. These tables will be staffed with USO volunteers to assist the large number of active duty military traveling for the holiday weekend. The USO office at O'Hare is located in Terminal 2 on the Mezzanine Level pre-security. The Midway USO center is located on the post-security 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.

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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 are advised to check their airline's Web site for the status of their flights before leaving home. Passengers should allow time for traveling to the airports, ticketing, checking baggage and security checkpoint process. It is recommended that all passengers arrive at O'Hare or Midway at least two hours before their scheduled flight departures

Parking at the Airport

Cost-conscious travelers can take advantage of O'Hare's two economy parking lots, priced at \$9 and \$17 per day. The parking rate for the main parking structure at O'Hare is \$2 for the first hour and \$4 for the second and third hours. Midway's economy lots, located along 55th Street, are reasonably priced at \$14 per day.

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 motorists should 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. 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. Travelers are also advised to remove laptops from bags before security checkpoints and to mark them with business cards or another form of identification. Visit www.tsa.gov for a list of what can be carried through security checkpoints and other 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.

Several restaurants and shops, including many Chicago favorites, have opened or expanded locations at O'Hare including: Tortas Frontera by Rick Bayless; Blackhawks Restaurant and the largest Starbucks location in Terminal 3 at O'Hare. Travelers can also take a slice of Chicago with them by stopping at the expanded Eli's Cheesecake Café in Terminal 1 between Gates B8 and B9.

O'Hare travelers should check out the world's first aeroponic airport garden in the Terminal 3 Rotunda, Mezzanine Level, past the security checkpoints. The garden provides fresh produce for several restaurant locations at O'Hare, including Tortas Fronteras by Rick Bayless and Wicker Park Seafood and Sushi Lounge. It is a great location for travelers seeking a quiet spot to relax away from airline gates. Information about the garden and other CDA sustainability initiatives is available at the garden site as well.

Another amenity for passengers is a new mobile app offered by HMSHost that offers travelers the option to order food in advance for pick-up or delivery at select locations throughout O'Hare International Airport. B4 YOU BOARD is the free app available from the Apple App Store and Android Market.

At both O'Hare and Midway, beverage disposal stations are located at security checkpoints to allow passengers to empty the contents of their bottles prior to entering security checkpoints. Once cleared through security, passengers are able to refill their water bottles at designated filtered water bottle refill stations.

Mail Safe Express, an automated mail system at O'Hare International Airport, provides travelers with an option to retain personal items not allowed through TSA security checkpoints. The Mail Safe Express system allows passengers to choose to securely mail home liquids and other items via the United States Postal Service. Each Mail Safe Express kiosk provides a one-stop packaging, payment and vaulted drop-off station that allows passengers to mail items to domestic or international addresses. The kiosks are located just past Security Checkpoints 1 and 2 in Terminal 1; Checkpoint 5 in Terminal 2; and Checkpoints 7 and 7A in Terminal 3. All major credit cards are accepted for payment.

O'Hare and Midway each provide 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 past security in the main corridor that connects Terminals 2 and 3. Seasonal flu shots are available at the O'Hare clinic and at kiosks in each of the domestic terminals at O'Hare.

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- More -

THANKSGIVING 2010 HOLIDAY TRAVEL/page four

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.

Parents and children can also enjoy the Brachiosaurus dinosaur exhibit, sponsored by the Chicago Field Museum, in Terminal 1 at O'Hare.

At Midway, parents and children can learn more about the historic World War II Battle of Midway - the namesake for the airport - by visiting the dynamic and educational displays located in Concourse A. There are also many great views of the airport and airplanes from interior and exterior of the terminal building.

At O'Hare, fresh flowers are 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.