



News Release

Press Office
City of Chicago, Department of Aviation
Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

April 22, 2009

Karen Pride
Department of Aviation
(773) 686-3700
kpride@ohare.com

Eve Rodriguez
O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP)
(773) 457-0398 (cell)
everodriguez@cityofchicago.org

CITY COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR DALEY'S APPOINTMENT OF ROSEMARIE ANDOLINO AS NEW COMMISSIONER OF AVIATION

The Chicago City Council today approved Mayor Richard M. Daley's appointment of Rosemarie Andolino as the new Aviation Commissioner.

Since 2003, Andolino has served as Executive Director of the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP), which she will continue to oversee in her new assignment.

"Rosemarie has proven herself to be a strong and creative manager. We need that skill and experience, especially in these challenging economic times when we must constantly find ways to manage government and deliver services more efficiently, even as our revenues are falling," Mayor Daley said.

Andolino will succeed Richard Rodriguez as Commissioner of Aviation and continue to oversee the O'Hare Modernization Program. The OMP will be consolidated into the operations of the Department of Aviation, resulting in some cost savings and greater efficiencies.

"There's no more important job than making sure that O'Hare remains the economic engine of our state and our region. A modernized O'Hare means the creation of 195,000 more jobs, and another \$18 billion in annual economic activity," the Mayor said. "We must see the O'Hare plan through to its conclusion, and we need the continuity of leadership that Rosie brings to the task."

Under Andolino's leadership, the OMP successfully completed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)'s Environmental Impact Statement process, the most comprehensive level of review for an airport project. The FAA issued its Record of Decision approving the OMP on September 30, 2005, and the OMP successfully broke ground that same day.

Nearly three years later, the OMP commissioned its first runway project, the Runway 10/28 extension, 56 days ahead of schedule and \$33 million under budget. On November 20, 2008, the OMP commissioned new Runway 9L/27R, O'Hare's first new runway since 1971 and a new North Air Traffic Control Tower (NATCT) on schedule and \$6 million under budget.

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Construction continues on Runway 10C/28C, which will be built to accommodate new large aircraft. In fact, OMP construction contractors will begin pouring concrete on both ends of Runway 10C later this spring.

Preliminary design work is also underway for Runway 9C/27C, Runway 10R/28L, the Runway 9R/27L extension and the new Western Terminal Complex.

Daley pointed out this is a challenging time for the airline industry. He also said he has informed Andolino her job is to keep Chicago's airports strong and efficient so they can serve airlines, travelers and taxpayers today and well into the future, anticipating future growth in operations.

"The Department of Aviation needs to continue its commitment to ensuring safe and secure travel at our airports and providing a positive customer experience in an environment that reflects Chicago's rich, diverse and unique culture. In fact, we want the airports to reflect all of the great things that the City is known for and has to offer. So it's critical that we maintain an efficient and well-managed system," the Mayor said.

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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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