

Press Office
City of Chicago, Department of Aviation
Richard L. Rodriguez, Commissioner



News Release

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BUSY LABOR DAY WEEKEND IN STORE FOR CHICAGO'S AIRPORTS

Summer travel season ending at O'Hare and Midway

CHICAGO – More than 1.3 million passengers are expected to travel through the Chicago Airport System as the summer vacation season culminates this Labor Day weekend beginning Thursday, August 28 and continuing through Tuesday, September 2.

At Midway, Friday, August 29 is projected to be the busiest day with more than 70,000 passengers. O'Hare's busiest day will also be August 29, with nearly 223,000 passengers expected to travel through the airport.

In conjunction with the City of Chicago's annual Jazz Fest this weekend, local jazz quartets will perform at O'Hare and Midway on Thursday, August 28 and Friday, August 29 from 2 to 5 p.m. beyond security checkpoints for passengers connecting to flights.

"The Department of Aviation and its partners have worked hard throughout the summer to ensure a safe and enjoyable travel season for passengers at our airports," said Aviation Commissioner Richard L. Rodriguez. "This weekend's live jazz performances will create a vibrant and relaxing atmosphere for travelers at O'Hare and Midway."

The Chicago Airport System's numerous customer service amenities also extend to military personnel and families that come through the airports. Over the holiday weekend, United Service Organizations (USO) volunteers will provide goodie bags filled with snacks, bottled water and informational pamphlets to military personnel at welcome stations located just beyond security in each domestic terminal at O'Hare and Midway.

Labor Day Travel Tips

As always, travelers should allow ample time for traveling to the airports, ticketing and checking baggage. It is suggested that all domestic and international departing passengers arrive at least two hours prior to their scheduled flight departure.

Every passenger can assist in ensuring that flights are safe and hassles minimized:

- Pack lightly, without clutter, to facilitate easy screening.

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- 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.
- Review the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) permitted and prohibited items list online at www.tsa.gov prior to traveling to expedite passing through the screening checkpoint.
- Cooperate with TSA personnel at checkpoints and with airline personnel at gates.

Getting to the Airport

- Take public transportation. The Chicago Transit Authority's (CTA) Blue Line to O'Hare and the Orange Line to Midway are convenient ways to get to and from the airports while avoiding roadway congestion. The Metra North Central Service also has five weekday inbound and outbound trains between O'Hare and Chicago's Union Station. 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. For more info visit www.pacebus.com online.
- Learn where to park. Real-time parking information for both O'Hare and Midway airports is available on our Web site, www.flychicago.com. You can also register to receive parking information e-mail alerts on the days you plan to travel. Once en route, motorists within a one-mile radius of both airports can tune their radios to 1630 AM for the latest parking information.
- Don't idle at the curb front. There is a "zero tolerance" policy for illegal parking in and around the airport. Unattended vehicles parked in front of terminal curb fronts will be ticketed and towed. Both O'Hare and Midway airports offer short-term parking rates for those picking up travelers. Motorists will be able to park for \$2.00 for the first hour at O'Hare and \$4.00 for the second and third hours. From Thurs, Aug. 28 through Tues., Sept. 2, Midway will offer a special holiday rate of \$2.00 for two hours in the terminal garage.
- Use cell phone lots. These 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 Airport, 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. The lot at Midway Airport is located at 61st and Cicero Avenue just south of the main airport entrance.

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- Use O'Hare's free and easy Kiss n' Fly parking to avoid roadway congestion. The drop-off point at which family members and friends can wait for and greet travelers is located directly off Bessie Coleman Drive. From this location, passengers are transported to the Airport Transit System (ATS), which quickly shuttles them to any of the airport's four terminals.

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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.