

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



# News Release

**November 21, 2008**

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## **CHICAGO AIRPORT SYSTEM WELCOMES PASSENGERS FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY TRAVEL**

CHICAGO – More than 2.5 million passengers are expected to travel through Chicago's airports for the Thanksgiving period beginning today through Monday, December 1. O'Hare's busiest travel day will be Sunday, November 30 with nearly 223,000 passengers. Midway's busiest travel day will be Tuesday, November 25, with more than 64,000 passengers expected.

"The Department of Aviation and all of our partners are working diligently to ensure a safe and enjoyable travel experience at O'Hare and Midway," said Aviation Commissioner Richard L. Rodriguez. "We will continue our commitment to provide first-class services and amenities, while creating a festive atmosphere for holiday travelers."

Travelers at both airports can experience live music entertainment in the terminals featuring holiday themed jazz, classical, blues and international selections on Wednesday, November 26, from 2 to 5 p.m. That same day, the Radio City Rockettes will kick off the season with an appearance at O'Hare.

Several new restaurants and shops have recently opened for travelers at O'Hare, including Chicago favorites Garrett Popcorn Shops and Nuts on Clark; along with Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and The Grove.

The Chicago Airport System's customer amenities extend to military personnel and families that travel through the airports. Over the Thanksgiving holiday, 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 at O'Hare. The USO operates facilities at O'Hare and Midway to provide men, women and families of the Armed Forces with a place to relax, enjoy a meal, check e-mail, phone home and re-adjust to life before returning home or being deployed.

### **Getting to the Airport**

Travelers are encouraged to take advantage of the public transportation options available to both O'Hare and Midway. The CTA's Blue line to O'Hare and the Orange line to Midway are convenient ways to get to the airports and the Loop while avoiding roadway congestion. "L" riders can obtain real-time flight information for O'Hare and Midway from flight information display systems located at the CTA Clark/Lake Station.

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## **THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY TRAVEL/page two**

The Metra North Central Service 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 information, visit [www.pacebus.com](http://www.pacebus.com).

### **Parking at the Airport**

O'Hare's hourly parking rates are \$2 for the first hour and \$4 for up to three hours in the parking garage.

Midway's hourly parking rates are \$2 for 10-30 minutes, \$4 for 30-60 minutes, \$6 for up to two hours, and \$8 for up to three hours.

The Chicago Airport System'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 150-space lot is located at Economy Parking Lot F. Exit I-190 at North Mannheim Road and follow the signs to Economy Parking F/Cell Phone Lot. The 90-space lot at Midway is located at 61st Street and Cicero Avenue, just south of the main airport entrance.

Passengers are reminded that curbside parking is prohibited; unattended and parked vehicles will be ticketed and towed.

### **Be Prepared at Security Checkpoints**

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is opening "Family Lanes" at each security checkpoint at O'Hare this holiday season 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. Visit [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov) for more information.

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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](http://www.flychicago.com) to learn more about the Chicago Airport System.

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