

For Immediate Release
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Public Outreach Session (March 2, 2004)

The City of Chicago's Department of Aviation and the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) will host a public outreach session on the O'Hare International Airport Master Plan on March 3, 2004 at the Four Points Sheraton O'Hare, located at 10249 West Irving Park Road, Schiller Park, Illinois from 4 to 8 p.m.

Representatives from the Department of Aviation and the OMP will be on hand to answer questions about the Master Plan, which was submitted to the FAA in February, and the O'Hare Modernization Program. The Master Plan documents several planning efforts undertaken in recent years in order to provide O'Hare with a blueprint for guiding developments over the next 20 years. This Master Plan includes several projects that could be developed at the Airport in order to provide the Department of Aviation with the flexibility to respond to future demand.

One of the projects included in the Master Plan is The O'Hare Modernization Program, which is a \$6.6 billion program (in 2001 dollars) that will reconfigure O'Hare's runways into a modern, parallel runway structure, allowing the airport to operate more efficiently. Modernizing O'Hare will improve the efficiency of the airfield, reducing overall delays by 79 percent and weather related delays by 95 percent. Additionally, the O'Hare Modernization Program will create 195,000 jobs and generate an additional \$18 billion for the region's economy each year.

As with prior outreach sessions, the public will have the opportunity to submit written comments. The Master Plan and the Final Airport Layout Plan can be viewed on the FAA's Web site, on O'Hare's Web site, www.ohare.com, as well as local libraries. Comment forms, which can be filled out and mailed in, are also available on O'Hare's Web site. Additionally, the Web site also contains updated information on the O'Hare Modernization Program.

Nearly 400 federal, state and local elected officials, agencies and civic and business organizations were notified by mail of the public outreach session. In addition, notification of the public outreach session was sent to area newspapers.