



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

CDA Web Alert

April 1, 2010

Senator Durbin Recognizes Chicago's Lead for Airport Sustainability

The U.S. Senate recently approved an amendment authored by Assistant Majority Leader Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) to assist the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in creating a standardized, voluntary set of best practices to assist airports in operating and building sustainable facilities.

"Airports, while huge economic generators for cities around the country, have a real environmental impact on the area around them," said Senator Durbin. "The City of Chicago has been a leader among airports in taking steps to make O'Hare Airport more efficient and environmentally friendly. This amendment will promote the sharing of ideas to find the best ways to achieve energy efficiency, air quality improvements and costs savings."

The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) and other industry experts are leading a new initiative, the Airport Sustainability Institute (ASI). The ASI would be an independent, not-for-profit agency that would promote sustainability performance standards, and could objectively assess and rate airports, certify their sustainability level and recognize their achievements. The CDA continues to work with members of Congress, other airports and industry partners to win broad support for this initiative

"We thank Senator Durbin for recognizing Mayor Richard M. Daley's commitment to sustainability," said CDA Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino. "Overall, our work at the CDA has demonstrated that going green at airports is possible, cost effective, and more importantly, it is the right thing to do."

Support for Senator Durbin's amendment - approved as part of the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act - would establish a working group to develop these performance standards and help create a voluntary rating system.

Under Mayor Daley's leadership, the City of Chicago has achieved national recognition for being on the cutting edge of environmentally-friendly initiatives.

The CDA officially released the Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM) in August 2009 and SAM is being implemented on all airport projects at O'Hare and Midway International Airports.

For more information on the CDA Sustainable Airport Manual, please visit: www.airportsgoinggreen.org.

~ ~ ~ ~

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.

The CDA continues to incorporate and expand sustainable initiatives for airport planning, operations and maintenance, concessions and tenants in accordance with the CDA Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM), released in August 2009. To view case studies, lessons learned and new technologies, and for more information on the SAM, please visit www.airportsgoinggreen.org.

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP), introduced by Mayor Richard M. Daley in June 2001, transforms O'Hare's airfield from an outdated system of intersecting runways into a modern parallel runway configuration. The program will reduce overall delays at the Airport by 79 percent, and bad weather delays by 95 percent. It will create 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion in additional economic activity each year. Please visit www.oharemodernization.org to learn more about the OMP.

##