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O'Hare, Midway add e-mail updates

Flight status info can be sent to cell phones

March 9, 2007

BY **MONIFA THOMAS** Transportation Reporter

The city of Chicago is offering a new service that allows people flying out of O'Hare and Midway airports to get real-time flight information sent to their cell phones, BlackBerrys or laptops, free of charge.

To use the service, travelers need to give at least one of the following pieces of information in the first line of the body of the message: the flight number, scheduled arrival or departure time, the airline's two-letter code, and the destination airport's three-letter code.

O'Hare travelers should e-mail arrivals@ohare.com or departures@ohare.com, leaving the subject line blank. For flights in and out of Midway, e-mails should be sent to arrivals@midwayairport.org or departures@midwayairport.org.

The service provides a listing of flights matching the search criteria, along with the on-time status of each flight.

The flight data is the same as what's already available on the city's Department of Aviation Web site. The city has a vendor under contract to collect this information from the airlines, Aviation spokeswoman Wendy Abrams said.

Only flights within the next four hours can be looked up with the new e-mail alert system.

More information is available at www.flychicago.com.

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