

Press Office
City of Chicago, Department of Aviation
Nuria I. Fernandez, Commissioner



News Release

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Contact: Wendy Abrams
(773) 686-3700
wabrams@ohare.com

MIDWAY LAUNCHES NEW \$42 MILLION INLINE BAGGAGE SYSTEM

System to make travel through the airport safer, faster and more convenient

CHICAGO – The Chicago Department of Aviation today announced the opening of a new inline baggage handling system at Midway International Airport. The \$42 million project will replace nine explosive detection systems (EDS) located in the airport's ticketing lobby with a new behind-the-scenes baggage handling conveyor system. The new system is designed to screen more than 30,000 bags per day at Midway.

In addition to freeing up valuable space in the ticketing lobby, passengers are no longer required to carry their bags to a separate location within the airport's lobby. The new inline system moves baggage from the counter through security areas where it is screened for explosives and then placed onto departing aircraft. Designed to process up to 4,500 bags per hour, the new system is more than three times as fast as stand-alone EDS machines. Inline systems are also less labor-intensive, making more security officers available for checkpoint duties or training.

"This technology helps our airports meet the challenge of efficiently screening each piece of luggage placed onto an aircraft," said Aviation Commissioner Nuria I. Fernandez. "The inline system will make travel through Midway Airport safer, faster and more convenient."

Today marks the completion of the system for the north half of the ticketing lobby. The south lobby system is slated to open on July 18.

Inline baggage systems are currently operating at Terminals 1 and 5 at O'Hare International Airport. The re-check system at Terminal 5 handles about 20 percent of all of O'Hare's checked luggage. One major benefit of this system is that international travelers entering the United States through O'Hare and connecting to domestic flights can recheck their bags in Terminal 5 without having to carry them from the international terminal to a domestic terminal.

Plans for an inline baggage system at O'Hare's Terminal 3 are also proceeding. The system is expected to be operational this summer.

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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.

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