



**For More Information:
Monique Bond: 773-686-3700**

**THE CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION
HOLDS A JOINT PUBLIC OUTREACH SESSION WITH THE FAA
ON THE O'HARE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM**

Chicago, March 19, 2003 --- The Chicago Department of Aviation, together with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), co-hosted a public outreach session on the O'Hare Modernization Program today at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Schiller Park. The purpose of the meeting was to update the general public on the extensive planning and environmental review processes and solicit written comments from the public.

"Today's meeting represents our commitment to sharing our planning efforts with the public and getting their input," said John Harris, First Deputy Commissioner, Department of Aviation. "This is one of several opportunities that people will have to learn about the extensive planning underway for the Modernization Program."

The Department of Aviation presented the draft Airport Layout Plan (ALP) for the O'Hare Modernization Program that was submitted to the FAA for review late last year. Throughout the development of the draft Airport Layout Plan, the Department worked with airport users, including O'Hare air traffic controllers, pilots, the airlines and the FAA. The draft ALP took approximately 18 months to complete.

The analysis and refinements conducted throughout the development of the draft ALP are operational in nature. The draft ALP presents the proposed developments for O'Hare, including runways, navigational aids, taxiways, runways, terminal facilities and various roadway and rail line relocations. This draft ALP was produced based on detailed planning analysis on runway layout alternatives, facility requirements and concepts for terminal and roadway layouts.

The public had the opportunity to provide written comments on the Department's draft Airport Layout Plan. As planning continues, the Department will hold additional public outreach sessions. Information provided at tonight's meeting is also available on the O'Hare Modernization Program Web site at www.ohare.com

The FAA will now provide comments on safety and design criteria and the safe and efficient use of airspace. The Department will then incorporate those comments and submit a Final ALP to the FAA. Once approved, the Final ALP will serve as the official planning document for development at O'Hare.

Separately at today's meeting, the FAA updated the public on the development of their Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), an extensive review process that looks at the potential environmental impacts associated with the Modernization Program. The FAA also solicited written comments on the EIS process.

Over 300 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 appeared in the Federal Registry, the *Daily Herald*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Journal and Topics* and *Crain's Chicago Business*.

The O'Hare Modernization Program will create an additional 195,000 jobs and \$18 billion in economic activity each year. O'Hare currently generates \$38 billion in economic activity and 450,000 jobs for the region.

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