

For Immediate Release

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Wednesday, March 29, 2006 OMP Makes Offer for St. Johannes Cemetery
Land Appraised at \$630,000

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) today announced that it has made an offer of \$630,000 for the purchase of St. Johannes Cemetery. The cemetery is owned by St. John's Evangelical Church in Addison Township, located in Bensenville.

"While we have worked closely with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to minimize the impact of land acquisition on surrounding communities, the cemetery must be acquired because it is within the footprint for relocated Runway 10C-28C," said Rosemarie S. Andolino, Executive Director, O'Hare Modernization Program.

Relocating cemeteries for public works projects, such as roads, dams and airports, is not uncommon, and has occurred all across the country. For example, here in Illinois, cemeteries have been relocated for construction of the Eisenhower Expressway, Illinois Route 4 in Peoria, an intersection in Lake County and many other projects. Cemeteries have also been relocated for many airport projects including St. Louis, Tennessee, New Jersey, Toronto, Indianapolis, New Hampshire and Alabama, just to name a few.

The OMP cannot legally take title to St. Johannes Cemetery until the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals issues a ruling in a case challenging the City of Chicago's lawful ability to acquire the cemetery. Oral argument was held in that Court on January 10, 2006.

Additionally, the OMP agreed in affidavits to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals not to physically disturb St. Johannes until that Court reviews the FAA's decision approving the OMP. Oral argument in the D.C. Court is scheduled for May 5, 2006.

"We are issuing an offer now because the acquisition process can be lengthy and complicated," commented Andolino. "We will make every effort to work cooperatively with St. John's Evangelical Church in Addison Township. However, based on pending litigation and recent public statements, we do not expect to receive any level of cooperation in this matter."

"We are aware that we cannot complete the purchase of the cemetery at this time. However, making an offer and, if necessary, initiating condemnation proceedings are allowed by both court orders."

The offer does not include disinterment and relocation costs, which the OMP will pay separately. Once the cemetery is acquired, the OMP will work closely with the next of kin to select a similar reinterment site, as well as to secure a clergyman if requested by the family at the Program's expense. If there are no surviving family members, the OMP

will take reasonable steps to address the situation, including, if necessary, requesting court assistance.

While there are about 1,200 burials in St. Johannes, the cemetery has nearly 5,200 unused interment sites. According to public records, St. Johannes has averaged less than one burial per year over the past twenty years.

St. John's has 30 days to respond to the City's offer. If no response is received, the OMP may move forward with condemnation proceedings.

Site preparation for Runway 9L-27R has been underway since October 25, 2005. Contractors have moved more than 218,000 cubic yards of dirt and poured more than 5,800 cubic yards of concrete thus far. Land acquisition activities continue in Bensenville, with a total of 83 properties acquired to date.

The O'Hare Modernization Program, approved by the federal government in September 2005, will reconfigure O'Hare's outdated intersecting runway configuration into a modern parallel configuration, substantially reducing delays and increasing capacity. The OMP will create up to 195,000 new jobs and add an additional \$18 billion in annual economic activity to the region without the use of any state or local taxpayer dollars.

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