



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor

O'Hare Modernization Program

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COURT CONFIRMS THAT AIRPORT OWNED PROPERTY NOT SUBJECT TO LOCAL REGULATIONS

The City of Chicago scored a victory today when the DuPage County Circuit Court ruled that the property acquired by the City of Chicago in the Village of Bensenville is "airport property" as defined by the O'Hare Modernization Act, and therefore is not subject to local regulations.

Judge Kenneth Popejoy also ruled that in order to proceed with planned demolitions of the structures on those properties; the City must first prepare an environmental study of the area for the Court, to determine the potential impact of the demolitions to area residents.

"We are in the process of responding to the judge's ruling. As we have stated on numerous occasions, OMP is very cognizant of the safety and well being of the residents of Bensenville," said Rosemarie S. Andolino, Executive Director of the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP). "We are confident that the requirements imposed under the City of Chicago Master Term Agreement for Demolitions and the Health and Safety Plan created by the OMP for the Village of Bensenville are more than sufficient to safeguard Bensenville and its residents."

The southwest acquisition area includes 611 properties in the Village of Bensenville that are needed to create the South Airfield. The OMP has acquired or settled on 500 of the parcels needed, of which 391 are vacant.

"In regards to the demolition of properties in the southwest acquisition area, we will continue to comply with all the State and Federal laws especially as they pertain to environmental regulations in regards to disposal of any environmentally hazardous materials, should any be found on the site," added Andolino.

In 2006, the OMP successfully completed the demolition of fifty industrial, residential, office and commercial structures in the Des Plaines section of the northwest acquisition area.

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ABOUT THE OMP

Under Mayor Daley's leadership, the City of Chicago is at the forefront of the "green" movement. By creating and implementing the Sustainable Design Manual (SDM) the OMP has been nationally recognized for its commitment to incorporating sustainable initiatives into all design and construction contracts.

Some of OMP's sustainable initiatives include:

- Working to keep as much dirt on site as possible to reduce emissions associated with construction traffic on local roadways;
- Building vegetated roofs on our Airfield Lighting Control Vault, the canopy of the relocated Guard Post 1 and the base building of our new North Air Traffic Control Tower;
- Requiring the use of Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel (ULSD) for on- and off-road construction vehicles greater than 50 hp. This requirement is included in every OMP construction contract, and was put in place five years ahead of the federal government's mandate; and
- Recycling 90 percent of the materials from building demolitions, diverting it from local landfills.

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.

The OMP has awarded 17 construction bid packages worth nearly \$750 million thus far.

A total of four construction projects are complete, including an American Airline Parking Lot relocation, Runway 14L-Threshold Displacement, JAWA 90" watermain relocation and extension of existing Taxiway Kilo, the first new piece of usable airport concrete paved by the program.

Construction activities for the OMP are underway on both the North and South Airfields. To date, contractors have: moved more than 7.2 million cubic yards of dirt, placed nearly 6,000 linear feet of concrete for box culverts for the relocation of Willow-Higgins Creek, 34,000 linear feet of storm sewers, 68,000 linear feet of ductbanks and paved 42,000 square yards of concrete for the extension of existing Taxiway Kilo.

For the most up-to-date information on the OMP, including construction updates and upcoming bid packages, please visit www.OhareModernization.org.

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