

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



# News Release

**November 15, 2007**

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## **CHICAGO AIRPORT SYSTEM WELCOMES PASSENGERS FOR THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY TRAVEL**

CHICAGO – More than 2.8 million travelers are expected to pass through Chicago's airports for the Thanksgiving holiday period beginning Friday, November 16 through Monday, November 26. O'Hare's busiest travel day will be Monday, November 26 with nearly 237,000 passengers traveling through the airport. Midway's busiest travel day will be Sunday, November 25, with more than 80,000 passengers expected. The Chicago Airport System continues its strong commitment to friendly customer service, and will be assisting passengers with helpful information and a friendly smile.

"Our efforts to make Chicago's airports 'World-Class' begin with passenger satisfaction," said Aviation Commissioner Nuria I. Fernandez. "All areas of O'Hare and Midway, from ground transportation to customer service in the terminals, are primed and ready to make our passengers' holiday travel experience more enjoyable."

O'Hare and Midway will sparkle with lights and ornaments decorated on holiday trees representing some of the City's finest cultural institutions. Travelers will also be able to experience live entertainment featuring a variety of musical selections including jazz, classical, holiday blues and international selections. Candy will be provided to travelers as well as complimentary copies of airport traveler's guides to assist travelers with passenger services and amenities. Also, on Wednesday, November 21, the Radio City Rockettes will kick off the season by kicking up their heels at O'Hare.

### **Thanksgiving Holiday Travel Tips**

Travelers should allow ample time for traveling to the airports, ticketing and checking baggage. It is recommended that all passengers arrive at least two hours before their scheduled flight departure.

### **Getting to the Airport**

Travelers are encouraged to take advantage of the public transportation options available to both O'Hare and Midway. The CTA's Blue line to O'Hare and the Orange line to Midway are convenient ways to get to the airports and the Loop while avoiding roadway congestion. Two flight information display systems (FIDS) are operating inside the CTA Clark/Lake Station to assist passengers traveling to the airports. The displays mirror the flight information monitors at airports and allow passengers to get real-time information on departing flights before they board the train.

Additionally, the Metra North Central Service also has five weekday inbound and outbound trains between O'Hare and Chicago's Union Station. Regional bus service is also available to and from both airports. PACE provides regional bus service to O'Hare which terminates at the Airport Transit System (ATS) Kiss 'n' Fly. For more information, visit [www.pacebus.com](http://www.pacebus.com).

### **Parking at the Airport**

Midway will be offering a special holiday discounted parking rate of \$2 for two hours in the parking garage from Tuesday, November 20, through Tuesday, November 27. O'Hare's hourly parking rates are \$2 for the first hour and \$4 for the second and third hours.

Real-time parking information for both O'Hare and Midway airports is available on our website, [www.flychicago.com](http://www.flychicago.com). You can also register online to receive parking information e-mail alerts on the days you plan to travel. Once en route, motorists within a one-mile radius of both airports can tune their radios to 1630 AM for the latest parking information.

The Chicago Airport System's cell phone parking lots enable motorists to temporarily park free of charge until friends, family members or business associates have deplaned, collected baggage and are ready to be picked up curbside. At O'Hare Airport, the 150-space lot is conveniently located at Economy Parking Lot F. Exit I-190 at North Mannheim Road and follow the signs to Economy Parking F/Cell Phone Lot. The 90-space lot at Midway Airport is also conveniently located at 61<sup>st</sup> Street and Cicero Avenue, just south of the main airport entrance.

Passengers are reminded that curbside parking is prohibited and unattended and parked vehicles will be ticketed and towed.

### **Be Prepared at Security Checkpoints**

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) recommends the following tips to make traveling through airport security checkpoints safe and with hassles minimized for all passengers.

- Pack your carry-on bag neatly. Eliminate clutter.
- Have your ID and boarding pass out and ready.
- Wear articles of clothing that are easy to remove before passing through the magnetometer. All shoes and outerwear must be removed.
- Remember 3-1-1. If planning to travel with liquids, gels or aerosols in carry-on bags, passengers must pack them in 3 ounce or smaller containers; containers must be in a 1 quart-size, clear, plastic, zip-top bag and placed in the security bin. Only one zip-top bag is permitted per traveler.
- The liquid restriction applies only to carry-on bags. Pack larger quantities of liquids and gels in your checked baggage.

- Do not travel with wrapped packages. In order to determine if a package is a threat a security officer may need to unwrap and inspect the item. If you are traveling with gifts, please wrap them after you reach your destination.
- For more information, visit. [www.tsa.gov](http://www.tsa.gov).

If passengers mistakenly bring prohibited items with them to the security checkpoint, the Department of Aviation's Mail Safe Express system allows travelers to keep personal items by choosing to mail them home securely. The Mail Safe kiosks are a one-stop packaging, payment and vaulted drop-off station that allow passengers to mail items to domestic or international addresses or hold items at a secure location for pick-up upon return to the airport. All major credits cards are accepted for payment.

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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](http://www.flychicago.com) to learn more about the Chicago Airport System.

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