



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

# News Release

**December 17, 2009**

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## **MIDWAY REPORTS DOUBLE DIGIT PASSENGER GROWTH**

*November 2009 passenger enplanements show significant increase*

CHICAGO – The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) announces that Midway International Airport experienced an 18.6 percent growth in passenger enplanements for November 2009 as compared to November 2008.

“The increase in passenger activity at Midway over last year is remarkable. It is a very encouraging sign for the airline industry and a clear indicator that Chicago remains a high demand market,” said Aviation Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino. “Midway is the premier airport for low-fare, point-to-point domestic service, and has a proven record of rebounding quickly from economic and industry downturns.”

Midway had a total of 685,894 enplanements during the month of November, compared to 578,533 enplanements during the same month last year – an 18.6 percent increase. Year to date, Midway passenger enplanements are up 1.84 percent over 2008. Enplanements are defined as revenue passengers boarding an aircraft and the source for these statistics is airline monthly activity reports submitted to the CDA.

This year at Midway, Southwest Airlines increased its flight schedule and introduced service from Chicago to major markets including Boston-Logan International, Minneapolis-St. Paul International and LaGuardia airports. In addition, Southwest plans to add more than 20 daily flights at Midway in March 2010.

Currently, five airlines provide approximately 270 daily flights to 53 markets from Midway International Airport. More than 17 million passengers traveled through Midway in 2008 and the airport received the highest rating among medium-size airports in the J.D. Power and Associates annual Airport Satisfaction Study.

At O’Hare International Airport, passenger enplanements for the month of November 2009 were up 0.66 percent above last year. According to Airports Council International, passenger traffic at other airports in North America was down 1.3 percent for October 2009 as compared to October 2008.

Chicago’s airport system, comprised of O’Hare and Midway International Airports, handles 82.3 million passengers annually and provides travelers with direct and non-stop service to more than 230 cities worldwide.

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The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) 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 Department of Aviation.

The CDA continues to incorporate and expand sustainable initiatives for airport planning, operations and maintenance, concessions and tenants in accordance with the CDA Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM), released in August 2009. To view case studies, lessons learned and new technologies, and for more information on the SAM, please visit [www.airportgoinggreen.org](http://www.airportgoinggreen.org).

The O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP), introduced by Mayor Richard M. Daley in June 2001, transforms O'Hare's airfield from an outdated system of intersecting runways into a modern parallel runway configuration. The program will reduce overall delays at the Airport by 79 percent, and bad weather delays by 95 percent. It will create 195,000 new jobs and \$18 billion in additional economic activity each year. Please visit [www.oharemodernization.org](http://www.oharemodernization.org) to learn more about the OMP.

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