



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2025

CONTACT

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CHICAGO'S AIRPORTS SET TO WELCOME 1.86 MILLION PASSENGERS FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY WEEKEND

O'Hare International Airport poised for one of its busiest Fourth of July weekends ever, with passenger volume up 11% over last year

As the nation prepares to celebrate its 249th birthday, O'Hare and Midway International Airports are gearing up to greet travelers this Fourth of July weekend, with 1.86 million passengers expected to make their way through both airports between today, Wednesday, July 2 and Monday, July 7, according to airline projections.

The Independence Day travel surge builds on early summer momentum, as visitors are already arriving at Chicago's airports to take part in major events and activities across the city.

"Whether it is our world-renowned festivals, our beautiful parks and beaches, or the many cultural and sporting events taking place, no city compares to what Chicago has to offer in the summertime," said Mayor Brandon Johnson. "From the moment travelers step off of a plane at O'Hare or Midway, we are ready to make them feel at home. For all who are coming here during the Fourth of July season, we can't wait to welcome them to the greatest city in the world."

O'Hare is expected to welcome approximately 1.54 million passengers over the six-day period — an 11% increase compared to last year's Fourth of July weekend, and a 9.2% increase over 2019, the airport's busiest year on record. O'Hare's busiest day is expected to be Sunday, July 6, when more than 300,000 travelers are projected to pass through the airport — a surge nearly 40% above the daily average at the world's second-busiest airport for aircraft movements.

Midway will see a surge in travel as well, with approximately 320,000 passengers expected between today and Monday — on par with 2024 levels. Its busiest day is also projected to be Sunday, July 6, when nearly 59,000 people will pass through the busiest square mile in aviation.

"When folks come to Chicago during the busy summer season, the hard-working employees at our airports are always ready to provide first-class service, ensuring that the experience for customers is second to none," said Michael McMurray, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA). "We expect nothing less from one of the best and busiest aviation systems in the world, and we are again ready this Fourth of July weekend to assist and serve all who will be coming to O'Hare and Midway."

Visitors and residents traveling through Chicago's airports are reminded of the following:

Preventing Traffic Congestion

Cell Phone Lots are free at both airports. Avoid circling the terminals — use the designated waiting areas until arriving passengers are ready for pickup. The O'Hare Cell Phone Lot is at 560 N. Bessie Coleman Drive, and Midway's is at West 61st Street and South Cicero Avenue.

Kiss n' Fly drop-offs allow for quicker curbside access. At Midway, drop-off is at West 59th Street and South Kilpatrick Avenue, a short walk from the terminals. O'Hare passengers can be dropped at the Multi-Modal Facility (MMF) at 10255 W. Zemke Blvd., and board the Airport Transit System (ATS) for a quick ride to all terminals.

Public transit is also a hassle-free alternative:

- The CTA Blue Line offers 24/7 service to O'Hare, while the CTA Orange Line services Midway starting at 4 a.m. Both offer frequent and fast service, helping passengers avoid curbside crowds and reducing congestion in the process.
- Metra's North Central Service offers weekday service between Union Station in downtown Chicago and the O'Hare Transfer station adjacent to the MMF, with access to the ATS.
- Pace's Pulse Dempster Line offers direct service to O'Hare from Evanston, Skokie, Niles, Park Ridge and other suburbs.

Kennedy Expressway Construction

The Illinois Department of Transportation is completing the final phase of the Kennedy Expressway reconstruction project, set to conclude by late 2025. Drivers should be aware of the following:

- Outbound express lanes are now open to O'Hare, and can provide a quicker ride for O'Hare motorists traveling between the Loop and the airport.
- Expect significant delays, especially during peak hours. Travel time from downtown Chicago to O'Hare frequently exceed an hour.
- To reduce congestion, passengers are strongly encouraged to use public transportation options, such as the CTA Blue Line and Metra

Checking Updates on Parking Before You Leave

Economy Lots often reach capacity during holiday travel periods. Passengers should consider booking a parking spot ahead of time by visiting [FlyChicago.com](https://flychicago.com), and checking the status of current lots before driving toward O'Hare at [FlyChicago.com/ORDparking](https://flychicago.com/ORDparking).

Arriving Early

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) may experience longer than usual wait times at security checkpoints given the influx of travelers. Real-time updates for O'Hare TSA checkpoints are available at [FlyChicago.com](https://flychicago.com).

At O'Hare, CLEAR Lanes and enrollment options are available in Terminal 5 for PreCheck-eligible travelers and standard security. CLEAR Lanes are also available at O'Hare Terminals 1 and 2, as well as at Midway.

To expedite the screening process, travelers should consult TSA guidelines to ensure there are no [prohibited items](#) in their carry-on or checked baggage, and that all foods are packed in accordance with the [TSA's rules regarding liquids](#).

Enhanced Passenger Processing

Enhanced Passenger Processing (EPP) is a biometric screening process that was recently introduced at select airports for U.S. citizens returning from international destinations. EPP is administered by the CBP at O'Hare, which uses the CBP's Traveler Verification Service to identify travelers, confirm citizenship and screen for any enforcement concerns. By using a touchless process of biometrics, a traveler's arrival is automatically confirmed without officer interaction.

EPP works in the following ways:

- U.S. citizens flying through O'Hare will walk up to a kiosk, which will take a photo of the passenger.
- The kiosk uses the CBP's Travel Verification System to compare live facial images with photos from the passengers' travel documents.
- If there is no enforcement concern, the kiosk light will turn green and the passenger will be directed into the baggage claim area. If the light turns blue, an officer directs the passenger to an additional screening area.

Benefits to O'Hare passengers also include:

- Processing time for U.S. citizens being reduced from 60 seconds to 10 seconds
- More CBP resources being made available for passengers who need additional processing time, such as non-U.S. citizens and passengers referred for additional screening
- A reduction of more than 70% in both passenger wait times and misconnections with United and American Airlines flights (based on CBP observations after three weeks of EPP implementation)

Real ID

All travelers 18 and older who are flying domestically are now required by the TSA to have a Real ID, which is part of a driver's license or state-issued identification. A Real ID is denoted by a gold star located on the upper right-hand corner of a license or state identification. The following alternatives to a Real ID are also accepted, according to the TSA's [website](#):

- State-issued Enhanced Driver's License (EDL) or Enhanced ID (EID)
- U.S. passport
- U.S. passport card
- Department of Homeland Security-trusted traveler cards (Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, FAST)
- Department of Defense ID, including IDs issued to dependents
- Permanent resident card
- Border crossing card
- An acceptable photo ID issued by a federally-recognized Tribal Nation/Indian Tribe, including Enhanced Tribal Cards (ETCs)
- HSPD-12 PIV card
- Foreign government-issued passport

- Canadian provincial driver's license or Indian and Northern Affairs Canada card
- Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC)
- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Employment Authorization Card (I-766)
- U.S. Merchant Mariner Credential
- Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)

For more information about applying for a Real ID in Illinois, go to the Illinois Secretary of State's Office's website at realid.ilsos.gov.

Passengers without a Real ID or other acceptable form of identification could be directed to a separate line or face additional screening.

O'Hare Rideshares, Taxis and Limousines

Pickups at O'Hare for rideshare apps like Uber and Lyft are centrally located outside in the upper-level departures section of Terminal 2, between doors 2A and 2F. Additionally, as of June 30, passengers can access rideshares outside in the upper-level departures section of Terminal 3, between doors 3G and 3K. Passengers arriving into Terminals 1 or 5 must transfer to Terminals 2 or 3 aboard the ATS for rideshare pickups. Terminal wayfinding signage will direct passengers to designated pick-up areas, and ride-share apps will direct users to their closest pick-up zone.

All rideshare providers can drop off passengers at all terminals, which offer Black car pickups — including Black cars offered through the Uber and Lyft apps. Loading zones for rideshares can be found at the following locations:

- Zone A (Black) – Outside north of vestibule 2A
- Zone B (Blue) – Outside vestibule 2A
- Zone C (Orange) – Outside vestibule 2B
- Zone D (Green) – Outside vestibule 2E

Taxis to Chicago and the suburbs are available outside the baggage claim areas at the Lower Level curb front at each terminal. All travelers are advised to use the designated taxi stands to ensure they have a licensed driver. Travelers are also advised not to accept rides from drivers outside the cab stand or on the departure level of the terminal roadways.

Additionally, limousines are available for city and suburban destinations. Contact your company of choice near the ride boards to make reservations.

For more information about rideshares, taxis and limousines, visit FlyChicago.com.

Concessions Highlights

O'Hare [expanded](#) its dining options in Terminal 1 in March with the openings of Hinsdale-based Pronto Sandwiches and The Bronze Pizza, as well as a new airport location for Home Run Inn Pizza (which also operates a concession in Terminal 2). Passengers can additionally take advantage of mobile ordering through orderORD.com for a seamless dining experience throughout all four terminals.

Live Entertainment

Travelers making their way through O'Hare and Midway during the holiday weekend will be treated to the following entertainment:

O'Hare

- **July 3:** *Uncle Sam (patriotic-themed entertainment) – at various core terminals, 9 a.m. to noon.*
- **July 7:** *Son Monarcas (Latin folk) – Terminal 5/Gate M32, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

Midway

- **July 2:** *Uncle Sam (patriotic-themed entertainment) – at various concourses, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

Traveling Safely with Families

O'Hare offers a Family Lounge, which is a designated play area for toddlers and young children. The space also features charging outlets and stroller parking.

Parents will find several locations at both airports to care for, or nurse, their young children safely and privately. O'Hare provides more than a dozen Mother's Room and Lactation Pod locations — a complete list of locations is available at [FlyChicago.com](https://www.flychicago.com).

At Midway, a Mother's Room can be found in Concourse C near the airport's Yoga Room, and a Lactation Pod is available near Gate A5 in Concourse A.

General Information

Travelers bound for Chicago's airports can make the most informed decisions about how to access any of the previously mentioned airport services by visiting [FlyChicago.com](https://www.flychicago.com). The website contains real-time information about flights, parking updates, taxicab wait times, available concession businesses and other special alerts for the traveling public. The "My Flight" search page shows specific flight updates, amenities near the flight gate, as well as other travel resources.

Note that access to airport terminals at O'Hare and Midway is restricted at all times to ticketed passengers, those assisting passengers, badged employees and others with legitimate airport business.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2024

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**Chicago Department of Aviation to Connect Hundreds of Chicagoans with Aviation
Job Opportunities at Airport Expo & Job Fair**

The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) will host its third annual Airport Expo and Job Fair on Thursday, May 16 at the UIC Forum. The expo will connect hundreds of job seekers, contractors, and small business owners with employment and procurement opportunities available both within the department and Midway and O'Hare International Airports.

"The Airport Expo and Job Fair is a vital platform for connecting Chicagoans with diverse career and business opportunities at our airports, serving as a key step towards economic empowerment and community development," said **Mayor Brandon Johnson**. "By engaging directly with industry leaders and potential employers at this event, our residents can access the tools and pathways needed to thrive in the aviation sector and contribute to the growth of our city."

CDA leaders will guide interested candidates through the various job opportunities available with the department. Attendees will also be able to interview and apply for jobs with dozens of airport employers, including airlines, cargo operators, concessionaires. Other city agencies like the Department of Procurement Services will be on hand to provide more information on the process of bidding on City contracts and becoming certified as a minority-owned or disadvantaged business.

"Our airports provide incredible economic opportunities for Chicagoans of all experience levels and backgrounds. Connecting residents and local entrepreneurs with those opportunities is a priority for Mayor Johnson and the CDA," said **Aviation Commissioner Jamie L. Rhee**. "Midway and O'Hare International Airports are two of the regions biggest economic engines. Through outreach events like the Airport Expo, we can ensure that all Chicago communities benefit from them. The CDA isn't just in the business of creating jobs, we're in the business of creating generational wealth."

May's expo will also feature several breakout sessions where attendees will hear firsthand from leaders in the aviation industry, who will guide them through getting into a trade, responding to a Request for Proposal, the procurement and certification processes, and updates on the O'Hare 21 capital improvement project.

Last year, more than 700 Chicagoans attended the expo and met with dozens of exhibitors representing a variety of careers in aviation including construction, design, retail and law enforcement. Several employers even conducted job interviews on site.

The Airport Expo will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, at the UIC Forum, 725 W. Roosevelt Road. To learn more or register either as a job seeker or vendor, visit flychicago.com/airportexpo.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 7, 2023

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Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) to Kick Off Latest ‘Chi on the Fly’ Entertainment Series Ahead of Holiday Season at O’Hare, Midway Airports

Featured Artists to Shine a Spotlight on Chicago’s Entertainment Scene

Passengers traveling through O’Hare and Midway International Airports this holiday season will be treated to a variety of entertainment offerings, as the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) today announced the latest series of “Chi on the Fly” performances starting Nov. 16.

“The holidays bring out so much good cheer in Chicagoans, and with ‘Chi on the Fly,’ we have a roster of artists to help make the traveling experience a joyous one for those traversing our airports,” said CDA Commissioner Jamie L. Rhee. “It’s also the perfect opportunity to remind visitors that Chicago is a world-class destination for the arts, and we hope they take the opportunity to learn more about the talented artists of our wonderful city.”

For travelers spending time in Chicago, there is a variety of entertainment and cultural attractions to take in year-round, such as music concerts, theatrical productions and museum exhibitions. For those in the city for only a brief period of time, “Chi on the Fly” is also an invitation to check out Chicago’s entertainment scene during future trips.

Interested in performing at Chicago's airports? The #ChiOnTheFly entertainment series hosts 100+ music, dance, and family-friendly performances at Midway and O’Hare each year — from inspiring youth choirs to blues bands to jazz trios. Performers are paid at a starting rate of \$500 based on group size.

Visit entertainment.flychicago.com for more information and to apply.

Musical acts and entertainers scheduled for ‘Chi on the Fly’ include:

November 16

- **Linda Ortiz** (ortiz-entertainment.com) at Midway’s Baggage Claim, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Linda Ortiz has spent several years perfecting her artistic talents on display at parties. Her company, Ortiz Entertainment, offers face painting and other services for birthday parties, quinceañeras, holiday parties, baptisms, community events and more.
- **Gabrielle Goudard** (gabriellegoudard.com) in O’Hare’s Terminal 3 Rotunda, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Gabrielle Goudard is an operatic soprano and multidisciplinary artist who has also performed jazz and gospel, in addition to Balinese, Middle Eastern and Turkish music. Goudard has appeared on numerous stages around the world, including festivals in France, Italy, Norway, Spain, Lebanon, Oman, Turkey, China, Taiwan, Peru and the United States.

November 17

- **Smiley Tillmon Band** (smileytillmonband.com) at O’Hare’s Terminal 3 Rotunda, 9 a.m. to noon. Moses “Smiley” Tillmon leads one of the busiest blues outfits in Chicagoland, which is a guaranteed crowd-pleaser. After 55 years on the local blues scene, Tillmon serves up the blues

and soul standards that people never seem to stop craving, his rich vocals and fluid guitar backed by a band that keeps his grooves tight and right.

- **ReTurn2SouL** (return2soul.info) next to Midway's Battle of Midway exhibit, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. ReTurn2SouL transports you back to simpler times with their renditions of old school R&B, Motown and pop, along with some jazz and blues. Consisting of skilled and experienced musicians – some of whom have been performing together since their teens – ReTurn2Soul has had engagements through the United States and abroad.
- **Harmonica Hinds** (harmonicahinds.com) at O'Hare's Terminal 1 Bridge, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Mervyn "Harmonica" Hinds has been performing throughout Chicagoland since the early 1970s. He has guested on various albums (including legends like the late Chicago blues artist Koko Taylor), shared the stage with various blues musicians such as the late Willie Dixon and performed at many Chicago venues, which include a regular stint at Buddy Guy's Legends.

November 21

- **Eric Noden** (ericnoden.com) at O'Hare's Terminal 1 Bridge, 9 a.m. to noon. Eric Noden is an award-winning acoustic blues and roots musician based out of Chicago, whose virtuosic fingerpicking guitar blends perfectly with his honey and whiskey-tinged voice. From barrelhouse blues to New Orleans grooves to dazzling guitar instrumentals, Noden's live performances are festive and celebratory events.
- **CoverGirls Violin Show** (covergirlsviolinshow.com) at O'Hare's Terminal 3 Rotunda, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The CoverGirls Violin Show is a colorful, high-energy musical revue of the greatest pop and rock hits from Led Zeppelin to Lady Gaga – all performed on the CoverGirls' signature purple electric violins. In addition to being classically trained, many of the CoverGirls are gifted improvisers in the hip-hop, jazz, rock and Latin idioms.
- **The Noize** (<https://www.noizemuzik.com/>) next to Midway's Battle of Midway exhibit, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Having shared the stage with the Spin Doctors, the Marshall Tucker Band, Rick Springfield and the Dirty Heads, The Noize knows how to entertain audiences with their unique sound and interpretation of rock, pop, funk, country and soul hits you know and love.

November 22

- **Sam Thousand** (samthousand.live/about) at O'Hare's Terminal 1 Bridge, 9 a.m. to noon. Sam Thousand (formally known as Sam Trump) is a multi-instrumentalist, singer/writer, producer/composer and a 3Arts Recipient with over 15 years of experience in live performance art, curation, and self-management. Since picking up the trumpet at age 7, he has performed across North America as well as overseas.
- **Adrian Morris** (quartettsolo.com) at Midway's Baggage Claim, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Violinist Adrian Morris has performed in Chicago string groups for nearly two decades – including the Amadeus Chamber Ensemble and the String Theory Chamber Ensemble. Quartetto Solo is Morris' current musical project.
- **ReTurn2SouL** at O'Hare's Terminal 3 Rotunda, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

November 26

- **Jonas Friddle** (jonasfriddle.com) at O'Hare's Terminal 3 Rotunda, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friddle is a singer, songwriter and old-time banjo player whose tunes have received the 2012 Song of the Year Award in the John Lennon Songwriting Contest, first place in the Great American Song Contest and a nomination for Album of the Year in the Independent Music Awards. His songs bear the marks of a musician who has done his time in pub sessions and square dance halls, and his writing is full of imagery, honesty and humor.

November 27

- **Piraguas Y Piropos** (linktr.ee/piraguasypiropos) at O'Hare's Terminal 2 Butch O'Hare exhibit, 9 a.m. to noon. Piraguas y Piropos is an ensemble that performs Jibaro music (also known as Puerto Rican folkloric traditional music), which has a background in classical music and offers the flavor and syncopations of the Caribbean. Piraguas Y Piropos performs in a format that allows them to revere their origins, while also incorporating an openness to improvise in a way that keeps the music fresh every time it is performed.
- **Sam Thousand Duo**, at Midway's Baggage Claim, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Petter Wahlbäck** (theartistichome.org/petter-wahlback), at O'Hare's Terminal 2 Butch O'Hare exhibit, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wahlbäck is an award-winning Swedish composer and sound designer working out of Chicago. Wahlbäck's main areas of focus are music for media and performing arts. He has written music and created sound designs for numerous award-winning films, dance performances and theater productions.

December 15

- **CoverGirls Violin Show** (covergirlsviolinshow.com), at Midway's post-security location, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

December 18

- **Taft High School Choir** (tafthighschool.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=25742&type=d&termREC_ID=&pREC_ID=666754), throughout O'Hare, 9 a.m. to noon. Happy Holidays from the Music Department at Chicago's William Taft High School! The choirs at Taft, under the direction of Ms. Logan Jones and Mr. Philip Platakis, include curricular groups such as the Beginning Mixed Choruses, the Concert Choir and the Eagle Singers, as well as after-school ensembles the Varsity Singers and T.B.A. (the Tenor-Bass Association). Taft choirs have performed at various locations on the north side of Chicago, Navy Pier and Walt Disney World.
- **Thaddeus Tukes** (thaddeustukes.com), at O'Hare's Terminal 3 Rotunda, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Presented as the "World's Best Vibraphonist" by World Expo 2020 in Dubai, composer and percussionist Thaddeus Tukes is a proud practitioner of what he calls the "Chicago Vibe," honoring the legacy of the vibraphone within the jazz tradition and beyond. His virtuosity and creativity has captivated audiences from Carnegie Hall in New York to the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.
- **Merry Maskers Carolers** (famentertainment.net), strolling throughout Midway, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Merry Maskers are one of Chicago's top caroling groups, having performed for country clubs, hotels, thousands of events, as well as in the movies.

December 19

- **Merry Maskers Carolers**, strolling throughout O'Hare, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- **David Chiriboga** (davidchiribogamusic.com), at Midway's Baggage Claim, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Based in Chicago, David Chiriboga offers 20 years of experience in showcasing premier artists in flamenco, Spanish guitar and dance ensembles throughout the Midwest and beyond. Not only does Chiriboga play traditional Spanish Guitar classics, but he also adapts popular music into his repertoire.

December 20

- **Santa**, throughout Midway, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Right before making the yearly rounds, Santa stops by Chicago's airports to bring holiday cheer to passengers young and old! Joining him at some appearances is Mrs. Claus, who also loves helping her husband deliver gifts and smiles to travelers at this time of year!
- **Santa and Mrs. Claus**, throughout O'Hare, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

December 21

- **Santa and Mrs. Claus**, throughout O'Hare, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Faces in Focus** (facesinfofocuspartyart.com), at Midway's Baggage Claim, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Chicago-based Faces in Focus has been a premier caricature, face paint and portrait outlet for the general public, with a location at Navy Pier since 1997. Faces in Focus' award-winning artists have also been featured on national television.
- **CoverGirls Violin Show**, at O'Hare's Terminal 3 Rotunda, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

December 22

- **Santa and Mrs. Claus**, throughout Midway, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- **Santa**, throughout O'Hare, 9 a.m. to noon.
- **ReTurn2Soul**, at O'Hare's Terminal 3 Rotunda, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

December 26

- **Harmonica Hinds**, at O'Hare's Terminal 3 Rotunda, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

December 29

- **Banjo Buddies** (banjobuddies.com), next to Midway's Battle of Midway exhibit, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Banjo Buddies Dixieland Jazz Band's repertoire includes Classic Dixieland Jazz and popular standards spanning three decades. For over two decades, the band has played over 200 engagements, with musical styles that include swing, blues and novelty tunes.

A full calendar of the "Chi on the Fly" holiday season [at O'Hare](#) and [Midway](#) is available on FlyChicago.com. Check FlyChicago's website regularly for updates on other artists and entertainers added to this season's lineup.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**NEW PARKING GARAGE WILL DOUBLE AVAILABLE PARKING AT O'HARE
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TERMINAL 5**
Construction Project Involves 60 Firms Led by Joint Venture AECOM Hunt Clayco BOWA

The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) announced today that construction is beginning on a new, six-story parking garage that will service the expanded Terminal 5, more than doubling the amount of available parking at the terminal as it makes the \$1 billion transition to a state-of-the-art facility that will serve domestic and international passengers.

"O'Hare is the world's gateway to Chicago, and nowhere is that more true than Terminal 5," said Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot. "These ground transportation and curbside improvements will ensure visitors to our city have a world-class experience from the moment their bags hit the ground to the moment they are whisked away by plane, train or automobile."

When completed in 2024, the new garage will replace the current surface parking lot and expand capacity to offer a mix of short- and long-term parking options, like those available at the airport's main terminals. The construction is part of the larger O'Hare 21 initiative, which aims to create a more efficient transportation experience for travelers from curb to gate across the entire airport property.

"These construction projects admittedly create disruptions to airport operations, but they are essential to providing safe, secure, and passenger-friendly facilities well in the future," said CDA Commissioner Jamie L. Rhee. "Investment in our airports creates jobs, business opportunities and economic development in addition to future benefits for those traveling through our airports."

The Terminal 5 Garage project is led by joint venture AECOM Hunt Clayco BOWA as Construction Manager at Risk (CMR) and supported by 60 participating contractors, including 14 MBE and 14 WBE firms.

In addition to the new parking structure, the scope of the Terminal 5 Landside Parking Improvements will also include:

- Re-striping of airport roadways to rebalance lane capacity;
- An expansion to the curbside area, including physical drive lanes, dedicated entry and exit roadways, escalators, and pedestrian areas; and
- Parking assist technology and electric vehicle charging stations.

This work will be completed in phases in order to maintain pedestrian connections between the terminal facilities and Lot D, as well as maintaining a certain level of public parking availability in Lot D. Phased parking lot closures have already begun and will continue in the months ahead.

O'Hare visitors picking up friends or family arriving in Terminal 5 during the ongoing construction are encouraged to wait in the free Cell Phone Lot at 560 N. Bessie Coleman Drive. The Cell Phone Lot provides a designated area for all airport visitors to wait in their cars until arriving passengers call them for curbside pickup.

Visitors seeking short-term parking to meet passengers arriving at Terminal 5 can also use hourly parking at the Main O'Hare Parking Garage, which costs only \$3 for the first hour. From any of the main terminals, visitors can take a short ride on the Airport Transit System (ATS) to Terminal 5. Parking customers are always encouraged to check real-time parking lot status and capacity at [FlyChicago.com](https://www.flychicago.com) prior to arriving at the airport.

The Terminal 5 extension will open this fall, with additional renovations opening in phases through 2023. When completed, the revamped Terminal 5 will increase passenger amenity space by 66%, reconfigure the customs facilities, and replace the existing baggage handling system to ensure Terminal 5 provides a world-class passenger experience for both domestic and international travelers.

All of the Terminal 5 improvements are part of O'Hare 21, Chicago's vision for a modern airport to meet the needs of the traveling public through the 21st century and beyond. The \$8.5-billion curb-to-gate investment will elevate the passenger experience and improve operational efficiencies. More information is available at [ORD21.com](https://www.ord21.com).

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About the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA):

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. Chicago's airports offer service to over 260 nonstop destinations worldwide,

including 47 foreign countries, combined. Together, Chicago's airports serve more than 105 million passengers each year and generate approximately \$60 billion in annual economic activity for the region. Please visit www.flychicago.com to learn more about the Chicago Department of Aviation.