



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner

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Gregg Cunningham

(773) 686-3700

gcunningham@cityofchicago.org

COMMISSIONER ANDOLINO TESTIFIES AT U.S. HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE MEETING

Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino addressed the U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure today in Washington D.C. at a hearing on the "Recovery Act: Progress Report for Transportation Infrastructure Investment". The hearing was held to examine progress on implementing the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for transportation programs including highways, bridges, public transportation, rail and aviation.

Andolino thanked the House Committee members' work in support of the ARRA, which included \$1.1 billion for Airport Improvement Program (AIP) construction projects. She also thanked the Committee for passing H.R. 915, the *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009*, which includes an increase in the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) cap. During her testimony, Andolino encouraged the Committee to consider additional federal funding and other ways to invest in airport infrastructure.

"Now is the time to make investments in our national airport system," said Andolino. "With congressional leadership, airports nationwide can receive critical funding to increase system capacity, safety, and efficiency, and make environmental improvements – with the added benefit of stimulating the economy."

The CDA has been awarded approximately \$15 million in ARRA funds in 2009 for installation of security cameras at Midway International Airport (\$2.7 million) and for improvements to replace concrete pavement on Runway 10-28 and Taxiway M at O'Hare International Airport (\$12.3 million). The runway and taxiway projects, which are substantially complete, will help improve runway operations and increase efficiency not only at O'Hare, but throughout the national aviation system.

"The FAA should be commended for issuing the grants so quickly. The agency's prompt actions have allowed airports to move ahead with their infrastructure projects and create jobs in their local communities," said Andolino. "This stimulus funding allowed us to proceed with additional work that produced benefits beyond those provided by the O'Hare Modernization Program."

During her testimony, Andolino urged Congress to help stimulate the economy by passing a multi-year FAA reauthorization bill that raises the PFC cap to \$7.50, indexes it for construction cost inflation and increases Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding.

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“Raising the PFC cap would help airports across the country,” Andolino said. “Increasing the PFC will help us with the O’Hare Modernization Program and stimulate the economy by creating thousands of jobs every year for the next five years without burdening taxpayers.”

In addition to Andolino’s testimony on behalf of the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), the hearing also included representation by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Government Accountability Office, American Public Transportation Association, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, and American Road & Transportation Builders Association.

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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 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.

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 to learn more about the OMP.

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