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# Travel woes are few at O'Hare, Midway

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The last thing Jeff McGee wanted was a transportation snarl on what was expected to be a heavy day for travel to dampen the trip his family took to Disney World during the Thanksgiving weekend.

So McGee, his wife, Amy, sons Sam and Ryan and daughter Abby arrived at the Orlando airport two hours before their flight back to Chicago. Lines at the ticket counter and security checkpoint were long but kept moving at a pace that allowed the Chicago family to grab breakfast and arrive at their gate with nearly an hour to spare.

"We had plenty of time," Jeff McGee said after arriving Sunday afternoon at Midway Airport. "[Traveling] was better than expected."

Most travelers flying in and out of Midway and O'Hare International Airport saw few snags Sunday. Nearly 1.8 million fliers were expected at both airports during the Thanksgiving weekend, with travel starting Wednesday and ending Sunday.

Sunday was the busiest travel day at Midway, with more than 68,000 passengers expected to come through the airport, said Wendy Abrams, spokeswoman for the Chicago Department of Aviation. Midway sees 50,000 passengers on a typical day.

More than 210,000 passengers were expected to travel through O'Hare on Sunday, a bump from its daily average of 206,000, Abrams said. She said O'Hare saw its peak travel Wednesday, when more than 217,000 people passed through the airport.

But thanks to fog, Sunday's travel wasn't entirely smooth. Delays at O'Hare ranged from 30 to 90 minutes in the morning and hovered around a half-hour the rest of the day as a result of low visibility.

"The fog came in to O'Hare just before 7 a.m. and visibility was down to 2 1/2 miles, and it stayed that way until 9 a.m.," said Bill Wilson, a forecaster for the National Weather Service in Romeoville.

By noon, visibility increased to 6 miles, but then another patch of fog rolled in during the late afternoon.

Midway was not hampered as much by the fog, and delays were minimal, Abrams said.

Zenobia Warren of Las Vegas said she rarely travels by plane, preferring ground transportation. But her sister insisted that she take a direct flight back home after an extended stay in Gary following their father's death. Warren said television news reports gave the impression that airports would be swamped

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with travelers.

"Everybody was telling me it would be crazy," Warren said. "There's nobody out here. Where is everybody?"

Heavy traffic getting to Midway on Tuesday had the Ailsworths, of Naperville, worried about their Sunday return.

"I was a little anxious," Mark Ailsworth said after collecting their bags at Midway on Sunday afternoon. "I expected we would need extra time, but we didn't really."

Despite a full flight, the Ailsworths said their flight from Norfolk, Va., left on time and arrived without a hitch.

"Compared to our other times flying during Thanksgiving, this was definitely one of our best ones," said his wife, Brady.

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