



Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Rosemarie S. Andolino, Commissioner



# News Release

**August 12, 2009**

**Eve Rodriguez**

**773-462-7365**

[everodriguez@cityofchicago.org](mailto:everodriguez@cityofchicago.org)

## **Airports Going Green Conference in Chicago a Success**

*Nearly 300 attendees receive new Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM)*

CHICAGO – The three-day “Airports Going Green,” conference held in Chicago August 5-7 was a tremendous success. With nearly 300 attendees and exhibitors, the conference featured nationally and internationally recognized aviation, environmental and federal agency leaders.

The conference was hosted by the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) and the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA). Specific topics at the conference ranged from design, construction and commissioning of LEED-certified terminals and airport recycling initiatives, to the use of emerging technologies at airports, such as green roofs, wind turbines and photo-voltaics.

The conference began with remarks from the FAA Great Lakes Regional Administrator Barry Cooper, who introduced Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino. Commissioner Andolino’s opening address “Airports Going Green: Chicago’s Vision”, covered updates on O’Hare and Midway International Airports and emphasized the importance of the aviation industry’s continued commitment to be a leader in environmental stewardship.

The highlight of the first day was when Mayor Richard M. Daley joined Commissioner Andolino and a number of U.S. and international airport officials to unveil the new Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM). The SAM expands on the green airport design and construction guidelines set forth in the original OMP Sustainable Design Manual (SDM) introduced in 2003. The SAM reflects six years of best practices on sustainability at several airports including O’Hare. The manual will also include additional chapters on airport planning, operations and maintenance, and concessions and tenants.



relationship with all of our airport partners and industry experts.”

Mayor Daley commended the group for their dedication and collaborative efforts to create a document that sets a global industry standard for sustainability planning, development and everyday functions at airports.

“SAM supports the City of Chicago and Mayor Daley’s commitment to implement innovative sustainable measures at Chicago’s Airports,” said Commissioner Andolino. SAM is a living, dynamic document that will continue to evolve as new technologies and opportunities emerge. We look forward to an on going working



Keynote luncheon speakers included Christa Fornarotto, Acting Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs, U.S. Department of Transportation; and Joe Koslshak, Senior Vice President - Operations, United Airlines. Ms. Fornarotto discussed how the DOT is working with many organizations, including the FAA, in support of sustainable issues at airports. Mr. Kolshak gave an airline industry perspective and reported United's track record for environmental initiatives relating to air and ground operations, from both a national and global perspective.

On the final day of the conference, CDA staff provided an airfield tour of O'Hare International Airport including a demonstration of the new fuel-efficient, diesel-electric Caterpillar (CAT) D7E bulldozer.

Representatives from national and international airports who attended the conference included: Paris-Charles de Gaulle; Munich; San Francisco; San Diego; Los Angeles; Detroit; Fort Lauderdale; St. Louis; Indianapolis; Portland, Oregon; Oakland; Seattle-Tacoma; Dallas-Fort Worth; Denver; Boston-Logan; Atlanta-Hartsfield; Minneapolis-St. Paul; Banger Maine; and Charleston.

Several attendees commented on the success of the conference, including: Janell Barrilleaux, Director of Environmental Programs at Denver International Airport, *"The Airports Going Green conference was fantastic. It was inspirational to hear about all of the great and sustainable work being done at airports around the world. The Chicago Department of Aviation should be commended for their efforts to develop a manual to assist airports in sustainable designs for the future."*

Dennis Probst from the Metropolitan Airports Commission in Minneapolis, MN, *"I found the content to be helpful, informative, and meaningful."* Sam A. Mehta, P.E., San Francisco International Airport, *"We at SFO are honored to be selected to share our Environmental Best Practices along with O'Hare and other leading airports. The Airports Going Green Conference is a first step toward making the entire aviation industry sustainable."*



Other key participants in the conference and the SAM process were representatives from the U.S. Trade and Development Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Green Building Council, Illinois Department of Transportation, the Federal Aviation Administration, the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, the Center for Transportation and the Environment, Clean Airport Partnership, the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Sustainable Aviation Guidance Alliance, Airports Council

International, Airports Consultants Council as well as several City of Chicago Departments and Sister Agencies.

For more information and to access presentations from the "Airports Going Green," conference or the new Sustainable Airports Manual (SAM), please visit [www.airportsgoinggreen.org](http://www.airportsgoinggreen.org).

~ ~ ~

The Chicago Department of Aviation 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 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.

# # # #