CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL APPROVES ORDINANCE FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS AT O’HARE AND MIDWAY AIRPORTS

CHICAGO – The Chicago City Council today approved an ordinance authorizing an agreement for the installation of seven electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at O’Hare International Airport and another seven at Midway International Airport, expanding the number of charging stations for customers using increasingly popular and environmentally sound electric cars.

The publicly accessible electric charging stations include six Level II stations, which can charge a vehicle in four to six hours, at each airport, and one Level III DC Fast Charger station, which can fully charge a vehicle in less than an hour, at both O’Hare and Midway.

“Chicago is a leader in promoting sustainability, using innovative technology like electric vehicle charging stations around the City and at our airports to encourage Chicagoans to go green,” said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. “This is just one example of the commitment my administration has made to transforming Chicago into the greenest city in the world.”

Today’s ordinance approves a concession agreement with 350 Green LLC that allows the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) to collect a portion of the revenue from the charging stations. The CDA will also be reimbursed for the cost of electricity used as part of the revenue sharing agreement.

“We are so pleased to offer electric vehicle charging to our traveling customers at O’Hare and Midway, as well as Chicagoans who need to charge their vehicles while waiting for arriving passengers in our cell phone lots at our airports,” said CDA Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino. “We continue to work with Mayor Emanuel on ways to make Chicago greener, which includes the many sustainability programs already in place at Chicago’s airports to improve air quality and reduce emissions. Chicago’s status as a world-class city makes it important to use to provide a variety of transportation services to our customers and residents.”

The electric charging stations at the airports, some of which have already been installed, are part of a growing City-wide network of what will be 281 EV charging stations once all are installed. The Citywide EV charging station project is the first and largest of its kind.
in the United States. The City of Chicago and a private company, 350 Green, are working together on the implementation of this important project through a federal grant received by the former Chicago Department of Environment in 2009. 350Green sells the service for an individual (per charge) fee of $3.50 for a 90-minute Level II charging session or $7 for a 15-minute ‘Fast Charge’ Level III session. Or, electric vehicle owners can purchase a subscription for $70 a month. Both airports have seen a number of electric vehicles, including the Chevy Volt, Tesla and Nissan Leaf, taking advantage of the charging stations at both airports.

At O’Hare, two Level II EV charging stations are located in Hourly Parking, on the first floor of the main Terminal Parking Garage, next to the parking garage entrance to/from the Bus/Shuttle Center. Ultimately, two Level II chargers will be added to the fourth floor of O’Hare’s main Terminal Parking Garage, and two Level II chargers and one Level III Fast Charger will be installed in the Cell Phone Waiting Lot.

The Midway Level II stations include three stations located at the short term terminal parking garage; two at the (55th Street) Economy parking garage, and one charging station at the Cell Phone Waiting Lot (at 61st Street and Cicero Avenue). The Midway Level III Fast Charger is also located in the Cell Phone Waiting Lot.

EV charging stations are just one component of the Chicago Department of Aviation’s commitment to environmentally sustainable practices from the airport terminals to the airfield. Other initiatives include seeking a developer to construct and operate a fueling station at O’Hare that will supply multiple alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas, biodiesel, ethanol, and electric vehicle charging to commercial and private vehicles at and around O’Hare. This proposed development will leverage the City’s new electric vehicle charging infrastructure and provide alternatives to conventionally fueled vehicles to the millions of drivers (private, commercial and fleet) that travel to the airport each year.

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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 sustainability initiatives for airport planning, design, construction, operations and maintenance, and concessions and tenants at O’Hare and Midway International Airports in accordance with the CDA Sustainable Airport Manual (SAM) Version 2.1, released in October 2011. To review case studies, key findings and new technologies, and to learn more about the 2012 Airports Going Green Conference, please be sure to check for updates at www.airportsgoinggreen.org.