CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF AVIATION INTRODUCES ORDINANCE FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS AT O’HARE AND MIDWAY AIRPORTS

CHICAGO – The Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) today introduced 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, which can fully charge a vehicle in less than an hour, at O’Hare and Midway each.

“Chicago is leading the way in sustainability, implementing innovative technology like electric vehicle stations that will make our airports and our city the greenest in the world,” said Mayor Rahm Emanuel.

Today’s proposed ordinance seeks approval of a concession agreement with 350 Green LLC that would allow the CDA to collect a portion of the revenue from the charging stations. The CDA would 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 at O’Hare and Midway to our customers,” said CDA Commissioner Rosemarie S. Andolino. “The installation of electric vehicle charging stations is consistent with the Mayor’s goals for Chicago to improve air quality through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Chicago’s status as a world-class city makes it important that Chicago’s airports are able to accommodate access and provide a variety of transportation services to its citizens, visitors and businesses.”

The electric charging stations at the are part of a City-wide network of 281 EV charging stations. 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 is providing this service for a $70 monthly subscription, 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.

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, and two at the (55th street) Economy parking garage, as well as one 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 plans to seek 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.