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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES MAYOR LIGHTFOOT'S PLAN TO SELL AIRPORT LAND FOR \$108 MILLION TO ILLINOIS TOLLWAY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF I-490

Agreement paves the way for improved vehicular access to O'Hare, honors agreement with Chicago's western neighbors

CHICAGO – The Chicago City Council today unanimously approved Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot's agreement with the Illinois Tollway, which will transfer 202 acres of land on the western edge of O'Hare International Airport to the Illinois Tollway for an average of \$12.20 per square foot, totaling nearly \$108 million.

"The benefits of this agreement with the Tollway are spectacular for our residents: more jobs, more contracts, more minority participation, better airport access and more funds to further develop O'Hare, an economic engine for our city that directly employs tens of thousands of Chicagoans," said Mayor Lightfoot. "I thank Department of Aviation Commissioner Jamie Rhee and her staff for their tireless work to maximize this opportunity for Chicago's job creators—particularly minority-owned businesses."

In addition to the land sale, the terms of the agreement will also permit the Tollway to use approximately 415 acres of airport land during the construction of I-490, which will connect the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) on the north with the Tri-State Tollway (I-294) on the south.

The agreement, approved by the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors last month, also provides for site preparation of approximately 100 acres of City-owned airport land as part of the overall I-490 Project, which provides the potential for future development on the airport's western boundary.

"Development along O'Hare's western boundary presents enormous opportunity, and remains an open question that must be discussed, negotiated and financed in cooperation with the airport's many partners and stakeholders," said Commissioner Rhee.

"Nevertheless, this arrangement with the Tollway cements a pathway to that planning



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process, and I look forward to starting those discussions with our airport community in the months and years to come.”

Aside from future airport development opportunities, the I-490 toll road will provide vastly improved connectivity to O’Hare as it diverts other traffic with a complete beltline around the airport property. Supporting construction of this roadway has remained a key component of the commitment the City made to its western neighbors when the O’Hare Modernization Program was launched nearly 20 years ago by providing improved airport access to suburban communities such as Elk Grove Village, Itasca, Wood Dale and Bensenville.

“This partnership between Illinois Tollway and the City of Chicago sets up Chicago residents for improved access to the airport and minority contracting opportunities,” said Aviation Committee Chairman Matthew O’Shea, the alderman of the 19th Ward. “I am proud to endorse this ordinance and thank Mayor Lightfoot, Commissioner Rhee, and the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors for ushering change.”

Additional details about the I-490 project, including the planning process that will remain ongoing throughout this year, can be found [on the Tollway’s website](#).

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