



Managing Mc Cormick Place Complex and Navy Pier

Press Office
Department of Aviation
City of Chicago

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Karen Pride
Department of Aviation
(773) 686-3700
kpride@ohare.com

Mary Kay Marquisos
Metropolitan Pier & Exposition Authority
(312) 791-6237
mmarquisos@mpea.com

News Release

REAL-TIME FLIGHT INFORMATION ON DISPLAY AT McCORMICK PLACE

Visitors View Flight Status Before Setting Off for O'Hare and Midway

CHICAGO – The Chicago Department of Aviation and the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority have teamed up to install a flight information display system (FIDS) at McCormick Place. The new display mirrors flight information monitors at airports and will assist visitors traveling to O'Hare and Midway International Airports.

"The flight displays allow McCormick Place visitors to access real-time flight departure information," said Grafe Smith, Deputy Commissioner of Information Technology and Telecommunications for the Department of Aviation. "Through this initiative we are enhancing customer service and helping air travelers plan their trips to Chicago's airports."

The FIDS unit is located in the McCormick Place Grand Concourse, above the main entrance near Gate 4, located at S. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and E. 23rd Drive. The FIDS unit displays real-time information on both O'Hare and Midway flights.

"McCormick Place is always looking for ways to improve customer service and this is another valuable amenity we can now offer," said David Causton, General Manager of McCormick Place. "Up-to-the-minute flight information allows attendees and exhibitors to maximize their length of stay at McCormick Place, thereby increasing the amount of business they can get done."

McCormick Place is the largest convention center in North America. It hosts conventions, tradeshows, meetings and public events that attract close to three million visitors each year.

The Chicago Airport System currently operates four other FIDS at the following locations: the Blue Line terminus at O'Hare International Airport; O'Hare's Kiss 'N Fly station in Economy Parking Lot E; and the Clark/Lake CTA Blue Line (O'Hare) and Orange Line (Midway) station platforms. The first FIDS unit was installed in June 2006 at the O'Hare Blue Line terminus.

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About Chicago Airport System

The Chicago Airport System 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 Airport System.

About Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority

The Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority (MPEA) is a municipal corporation created by the Illinois General Assembly. Its Board of Directors is appointed by the Governor of Illinois and the Mayor of Chicago. MPEA owns and operates McCormick Place®, North America's premier convention center, and seeks to promote and operate conventions, fairs and expositions in the Chicago area. Historic Navy Pier®, the number one tourist and leisure attraction in the Midwest, is also owned and managed by MPEA and the Authority is charged with carrying out the recreational, commercial and cultural redevelopment and operation of Navy Pier. Together, these two world-class facilities generate approximately \$4 billion annually for the city and state economies. MPEA is also active in the community and oversees a variety of programs that positively impact the thousands of people whose jobs are tied to McCormick Place and Navy Pier, as well as the millions who visit both venues each year.

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EDITOR'S NOTE – Please find a photo and caption attached.



Caption – A recently installed flight information display system (FIDS) at McCormick Place will assist passengers traveling to O'Hare and Midway International Airports. The FIDS unit is located in the McCormick Place Grand Concourse above the main entrance near Gate 4 at South Martin Luther King Drive and East 23rd Drive. The display is one of four operated by the Chicago Airport System in the city.

Photo – Chicago Dept. of Aviation