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**O'Hare Modernization Program
to Begin Clearing Acquired Parcels**
Four vacant buildings set to be demolished

The City of Chicago O'Hare Modernization Program will begin demolition of a vacant building on Monday morning, November 17. Three other buildings are set to be demolished over the next several weeks. All of the properties are located in a primarily industrial/commercial zoned area in the City of Des Plaines and have been acquired over the last year.

“Beginning demolition activities now will ensure that the city maintains its schedule for construction of the first northernmost runway, 9L-27R,” said Rosemarie S. Andolino, executive director, O'Hare Modernization Program.

The first building set to be demolished is located at 3113 Old Higgins Drive, in the City of Des Plaines, and was vacant when it was acquired last August. The other three buildings are located on Old Higgins Drive and Armstrong Road. A total of 20 businesses were relocated from these sites to communities surrounding the airport including Des Plaines, Elk Grove Village and Bensenville.

The City of Des Plaines and neighboring businesses were notified in advance of the demolition. In addition, the City of Chicago is providing rodent abatement, and crews will comply with all City of Chicago and Cook County requirements, which include:

- Testing and excavation of all gas lines in coordination with the local gas company,
- Coordination of the protection/removal of electrical service with the utility company,

- Obtaining a notarized affidavit prior to demolition activities to confirm electrical services have been safely disconnected and no hazardous conditions exist,
- Terminating water service at the main line,
- Removing sanitary lines up to the connection points, and
- Disconnecting sewer and storm drainage at the main line.

Approximately 40 percent of the land needed for the new northernmost runway has already been acquired with acquisition continuing in Des Plaines and Chicago.

The O'Hare Modernization Program will create 195,000 jobs and generate an additional \$18 billion for the region's economy each year. Modernizing O'Hare will improve the efficiency of the airfield, reducing overall delays by 79 percent and weather related delays by 95 percent.

No state or local tax dollars will be used to fund O'Hare modernization. The project will be paid for by General Airport Revenue Bonds, airline Passenger Facilities Charges and federal Airport Improvement Project funds.

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