

Marion Blakey
Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Blakey;

Our association believes there is a simple and effective solution for reducing congestion at O'Hare Airport: reduce short-haul flights to/from cities which have Amtrak service. Chicago-bound Amtrak trains terminate at Union Station, in downtown Chicago. There is a Metra link from Union Station to O'Hare. Many passengers on very short-haul flights would actually see a reduction in trip times under this proposal. We recommend the following implementation schedule:

Phase 1- Eliminate flights of 150 miles or less if Amtrak provides service with a schedule of less than three hours.

Phase 2- Eliminate flights of 200 miles or less if Amtrak provides service of less than three hours.

Phase 3- Eliminate flights of 300 miles or less if Amtrak provides service of less than five hours.

Using rail to substitute for short-haul flights into major hubs is common in Europe, and through ticketing should not be difficult to arrange. We also urge that the Metra line be extended further into the airport. The cost of doing this will be far less than other options available.

The only workable alternative to our proposal would be to auction takeoff/landing time slots. This would have the effect of eliminating unproductive, nearly empty planes from the most desirable time slots.

Sincerely yours,

John DeLora
Executive Director,
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