



**O'HARE NOISE
COMPATIBILITY
COMMISSION**

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Harwood Heights receives \$320,000 FAA land use grant for compatibility plans near O'Hare Airport

Des Plaines, Ill., November 21, 2008—The Village of Harwood Heights, Ill., has received a \$320,000 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration to prepare land use compatibility plans related to the village's proximity to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. The village will provide an additional 20 percent of the grant, or \$80,000.

Harwood Heights is the second O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission (ONCC) member within the past two years to be named an FAA Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act grant recipient. Des Plaines received a \$750,000 FAA grant in 2006.

The purpose of the FAA grant is to reduce non-compatible land uses and to prevent the introduction of additional non-compatible land use within the O'Hare Airport vicinity. Harwood Heights, with a population of 8,300, is located between the airport and the City of Chicago south of Interstate 90 (Kennedy Expressway).

“As the O'Hare Modernization Program continues to construct east/west runways and plans to develop a western entrance, compatible land-use surrounding the airport is an essential element to the economic engine of the region,” said Arlington Heights Mayor Arlene Mulder, ONCC Chairperson. “We encourage other communities to apply for FAA funding. Applications will be accepted through March 2009 and ONCC will assist communities with the process,” she said.

“When the FAA extended the program, ONCC encouraged us to apply and gave us the tools to pursue this grant,” said Harwood Heights Mayor Margaret “Peggy” Fuller.

(more)

Harwood Heights Earns FAA Land Use Grant/add 1

Harwood Heights officials will use the money to analyze the compatibility of commercial, industrial and residential land use patterns with the O'Hare Modernization Program. The goal is to achieve compatible land uses consistent with Federal land use criteria, to identify economic opportunities for village businesses and develop a strategic comprehensive plan.

Specifically, the village will produce mapping with the Cook County Geographic Information System (GIS) and coordinate land use patterns with the FAA, Illinois Department of Transportation, Cook County, and all modes of public transportation.

"We will update our zoning and planning codes and official map to achieve compatibility with the airport as well as prepare sound proofing ordinances for future build out in the village," said Fuller.

"We are interested in avoiding future land use conflicts, mediating existing conflicts and leveraging opportunities for economic growth, ensuring future prosperity and a high quality of life for village residents," Fuller explained. Village officials will work closely with the City of Chicago's Department of Aviation.

ONCC, composed of 27 Cook and DuPage communities, Cook County and 15 school districts, strives to reduce the impact of aircraft noise on surrounding neighborhoods through home and school sound insulation, and to reduce, wherever possible, aircraft noise at its source. For more information about ONCC or the FAA grant program, contact Brian Gilligan, 773-686-3198 or visit www.oharenoise.org.

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ONCC member communities: Arlington Heights, Bartlett, Bellwood, Chicago, Des Plaines, Elmwood Park, Franklin Park, Harwood Heights, Hoffman Estates, Itasca, Maywood, Melrose Park, Mount Prospect, Niles, Norridge, Northlake, Oak Park, Palatine, Park Ridge, River Forest, River Grove, Rolling Meadows, Rosemont, Schaumburg, Schiller Park, Stone Park, Wood Dale and Cook County.

ONCC member school districts: 59; 63; 80; 81; 84; 84.5; 85.5; 86; 87; 88; 89; 214; 234; 299; and 401.