

- Evaluating the Impacts of Mode Substitution for Short-Haul Air Connections at Chicago O'Hare (*Laurence Audenaerd PhD*)

Chicago O'Hare International Airport is an invaluable asset to the city of Chicago. As an economic engine it provides direct service to approximately 200 destinations globally. As a major hub for two airlines, just over half of the total enplanements are connecting passengers with a significant portion of these trips serving short distance regional communities surrounding Chicago. Each of these short-haul flights consumes nearly equivalent airport and airspace resources as long-haul flights. While long distance trips of greater than 500 miles are dominated by air travel, short-haul trips are competitive with surface modes when comparing total travel time and cost. However, due to hub-and-spoke air transport networks, short-haul air travel, between large airports and small airports, is bundled with long-haul itineraries. Often these connections find passengers experiencing lengthy transfer times providing an opportunity for competitive mode substitution to provide travelers with reasonable surface travel alternatives while reserving airport capacity for longer distance trips. This paper presents an analysis of short-haul airports throughout the region, their substitution criteria, and a qualitative analysis of the effects on service level improvements at O'Hare.