

DATA CENTERS · ISSUE #6

WINGS

OVER CHICAGO

Adult / Community Edition · Prestige

CREDITS

Wings Over Chicago · Data Centers #6 · Adult / Community edition
Story and production: GOTB Consulting, Chicago
Lead: Mateo Olmedo · Heroes: Commons, The Auditor, Gridline · On screen: Lena
Ashgrove, Channel 5 · Cameo: Dess

AI-GENERATED ART, FICTIONAL CHARACTERS

All characters, the town of Prairie Bend and Channel 5 are fictional. Any resemblance to real people is a coincidence. No real logos are shown. Real places, agencies and utilities are named only where public sources are cited; officials appear by role.

Every number was checked against public sources (see Sources). Disputed points carry a CONTESTED stamp and the strongest case on each side.

Nonpartisan: no parties, no politicians.

Airport safety: watch planes only from terminals and observation decks; never approach runways, engines or fences.

Lettering: Bebas Neue, Oswald, Kalam, Libre Baskerville, Courier Prime, Special Elite (set in Pillow; no fonts embedded).

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THE CAST



MATEO OLMEDO

Two chairs, one level.
Gives each side its
strongest voice.



THE AUDITOR

Sees it, reports it.
Cannot fix it alone.



GRIDLINE

Lineworker hero. Runway
lights run on the same
grid.



COMMONS

Ground crews and
neighbors. Lantern up.



MATEO

THE L ENDS HERE.



MATEO

THE WORLD STARTS HERE.



MATEO

TWO CHAIRS, SAME AS ALWAYS.

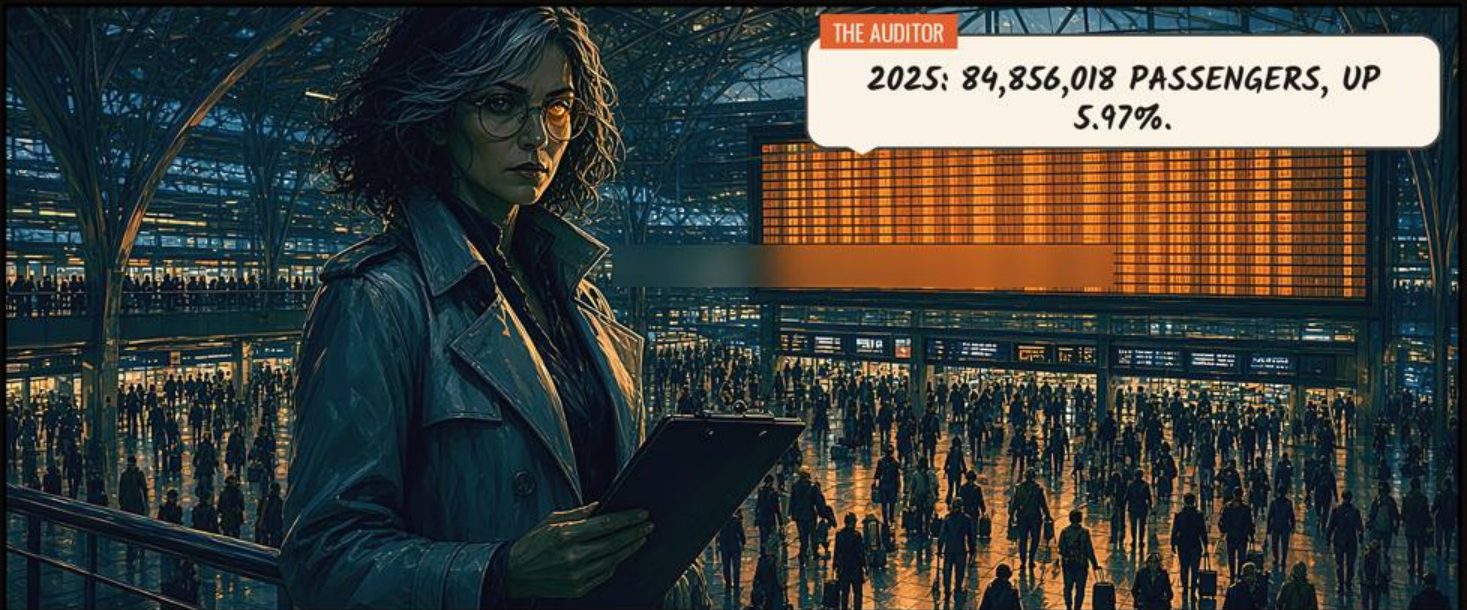
FACT FILE · 01



The CTA Blue Line reaches the big airport; the Orange Line reaches Midway.

Source: CTA, "Facts at a Glance" (Blue/Orange to the airports)

GOTB / DC FILE



THE AUDITOR

2025: 84,856,018 PASSENGERS, UP 5.97%.



THE AUDITOR

857,392 AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS, UP 10.49%.



THE AUDITOR

NEARLY 6 MILLION THROUGH CUSTOMS.

FACT FILE · 02

VERIFIED

The big airport 2025: 857,392 aircraft operations (+10.49% vs 2024) and 84,856,018 passengers (+5.97%). The big airport 2025: about 70.0 million domestic and 14.8 million international passengers; 5,993,221 through Customs.

Source: Chicago Dept. of Aviation, "the big airport Year-To-Date Operations, Passengers, Cargo Summary, As of December 2025" (PDF, dated 04/09/2026)

GOTB / DC FILE



GRIDLINE

EIGHT ACTIVE RUNWAYS.



GRIDLINE

THE LONGEST, 10L/28R, IS 13,000 FEET.



GRIDLINE

THE OLDEST DATE TO 1943; 9C/27C
OPENED IN 2020.

FACT FILE · 03



The big airport has eight active runways; the longest, 10L/28R, is 13,000 ft. The oldest active runways date from 1943; the newest, 9C/27C, opened in 2020.

Source: Chicago Dept. of Aviation, "Facility Data"

GOTB / DC FILE

HEARING ROOM



FACT FILE · 04

Framing panel: the two chairs present the strongest case on each side. Figures appear on the panels that follow, each with its source.

Source: GOTB framing (no statistic)

GOTB / DC FILE

THE AUDITOR

15.7 MILLION U.S. FLIGHTS IN 2023,
AND A 3,000-CONTROLLER GAP.



THE AUDITOR

CONCRETE IS THE EASY PART.



THE AUDITOR

PEOPLE ARE THE BOTTLENECK.



FACT FILE · 05



15.7 million flights in U.S. airspace in 2023. Air traffic control faces a gap of 3,000 controllers.

Source: ASCE 2025 Report Card, "Aviation"

GOTB / DC FILE



FACT FILE · 06



Framing panel: no new statistic on this page. Figures appear on the panels around it, each with its source.

Source: GOTB framing (no statistic)

GOTB / DC FILE



LENA · ON SCREEN

U.S. BOARDINGS: 819.5 MILLION IN 2023.

LENA · ON SCREEN

THE FAA PROJECTS 1.3 BILLION BY 2044.

FACT FILE · 07

REPORTED

U.S. passenger enplanements: 819.5 million in 2023 (629.5M in 2010); the FAA projects 1.3 billion by 2044.

Source: ASCE 2025 Report Card, "Aviation"

GOTB / DC FILE

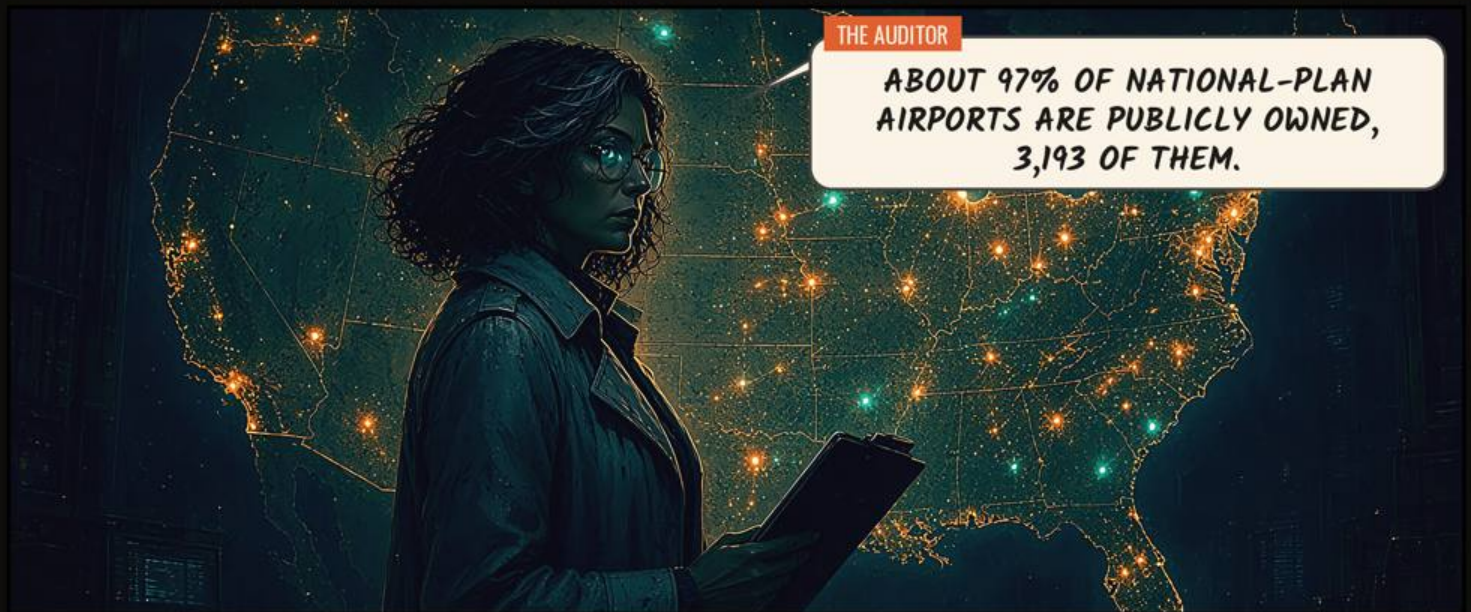


FACT FILE · 08

The 2021 infrastructure law gave airports \$25 billion over five years; ASCE projects a \$114 billion 10-year funding gap; FAA estimates nearly \$68 billion is needed for 2025-2029 capital projects.

Source: ASCE 2025 Report Card, "Aviation"

GOTB / DC FILE



FACT FILE · 09



About 97% (3,193) of the national-plan airports are publicly owned.

Source: ASCE 2025 Report Card, "Aviation"

GOTB / DC FILE



DESS

MIDWAY: FOUR RUNWAYS, CLOSE TO DOWNTOWN, ORANGE LINE AT THE DOOR.



FACT FILE · 10



Midway has four active runways. The CTA Blue Line reaches the big airport; the Orange Line reaches Midway.

Source: Chicago Dept. of Aviation, "Facility Data"; CTA, "Facts at a Glance" (Blue/Orange to the airports)

GOTB / DC FILE

CHAIR ONE



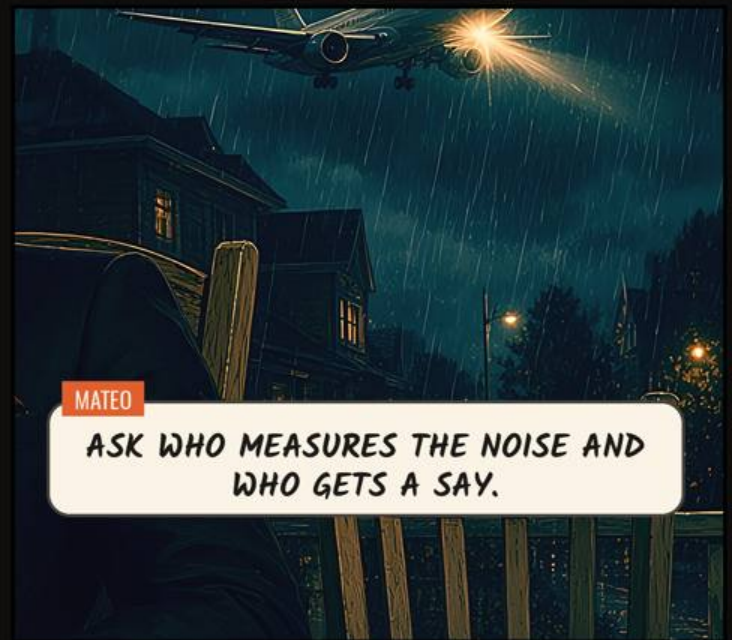
FACT FILE · 11

The big airport 2025: 857,392 aircraft operations (+10.49% vs 2024) and 84,856,018 passengers (+5.97%).

Source: Chicago Dept. of Aviation, "the big airport Year-To-Date Operations, Passengers, Cargo Summary, As of December 2025" (PDF, dated 04/09/2026)

GOTB / DC FILE

CHAIR TWO

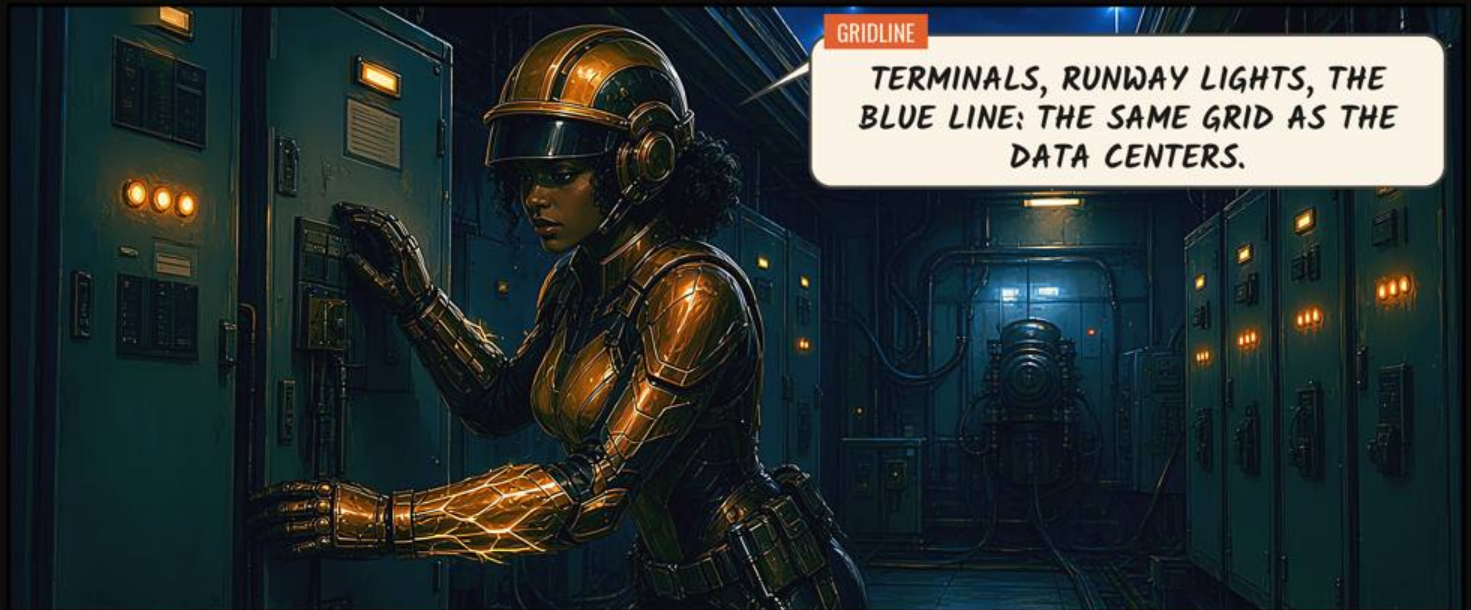


FACT FILE · 12

Framing panel: the two chairs present the strongest case on each side. Figures appear on the panels that follow, each with its source.

Source: GOTB framing (no statistic)

GOTB / DC FILE



FACT FILE · 13



Framing panel: no new statistic on this page. Figures appear on the panels around it, each with its source.

Source: GOTB framing (no statistic)

GOTB / DC FILE

RAIL TO THE GATE



FACT FILE · 14

The CTA Blue Line reaches the big airport; the Orange Line reaches Midway.

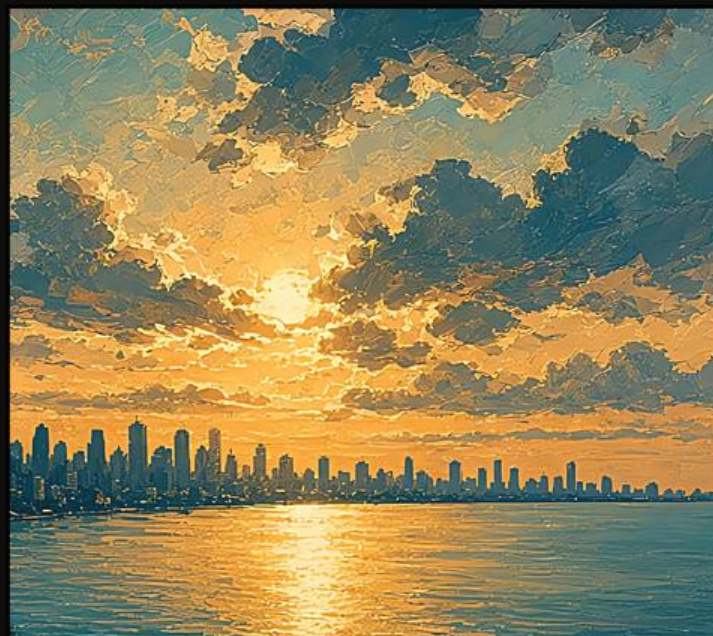
Source: CTA, "Facts at a Glance" (Blue/Orange to the airports)

GOTB / DC FILE



LENA · ON SCREEN

NEXT: THE FIBER UNDER ALL OF IT.



FACT FILE · 15



Framing panel: no new statistic on this page. Figures appear on the panels around it, each with its source.

Source: GOTB framing (no statistic)

GOTB / DC FILE



GOTB Consulting, Chicago: infrastructure and procurement for the power, water and public works these projects depend on.

BY THE NUMBERS

84.9 MILLION

The big airport passengers in 2025, up 5.97%. (Chicago Dept. of Aviation)

857,392

The big airport takeoffs and landings in 2025, up 10.49%. (CDA)

8 RUNWAYS · 13,000 FT

The big airport's active runways and its longest. Oldest from 1943; newest 2020. (CDA)

15.7 MILLION · 3,000

U.S. flights in 2023; controller shortage. (ASCE 2025)

\$25B · \$114B

2021 law money for airports; 10-year gap engineers see. (ASCE)

97%

Share of national-plan airports that are publicly owned (3,193). (ASCE)

TWO CHAIRS, ONE LEVEL

The strongest case on each side, labeled. Nonpartisan.

EXPAND

The airport is the region's economic engine: traffic grew 10% in one year. Growth needs runways, gates, controllers and power.

PROTECT THE NEIGHBORS

Growth lands on someone's roof. Ask who measures the noise and who gets a say.

PLAN WITH THE GRID

Terminals, runway lights and the Blue Line share the grid with data centers. Plan the loads together.

WHAT BOTH SHARE

Safe skies, public assets, decisions made in the open.

YOUR TURN

What would you ask before an airport grows? _____

SOURCES

Full list with fact IDs: FACT_BASE.md and NUMBER_CHECK.md (GOTB internal).

CHICAGO DEPT. OF AVIATION

Chicago Dept. of Aviation, "the big airport Year-To-Date Operations, Passengers, Cargo Summary, As of December 2025" (PDF, dated 04/09/2026)

CHICAGO DEPT. OF AVIATION

Chicago Dept. of Aviation, "Facility Data"

ASCE 2025 REPORT CARD

ASCE 2025 Report Card, "Aviation"

CTA

CTA, "Facts at a Glance" (Blue/Orange to the airports)

ABOUT GOTB CONSULTING

WHO WE ARE

A Chicago firm working on infrastructure and procurement for the systems communities depend on.

DATA CENTERS

Siting, delivery and community questions.

POWER

Grid connections, substations and lines.

WATER

Supply, treatment and cooling.

PUBLIC WORKS

Roads, pipes and public spaces.

THE END



TWO CHAIRS, ONE LEVEL.

Plan the skies in the open, and both can sit down.

GOTB CONSULTING · CHICAGO

Data centers · Power · Water · Public works

AI-generated art, fictional characters