



A message from

**Omar Idris**

Vice President - ORD



## **Team ORD,**

As promised, I'm following up with added details on what you should expect from our summer 2026 ORD schedule following conversations with the FAA. As you all know, the FAA has placed a temporary flight cap on all airlines at ORD through the end of October, setting the maximum number of flights at 2,708 per day. We appreciate the involvement of Secretary Duffy and FAA Administrator Bedford that will allow us to operate effectively during our busiest connectivity periods.

Tonight, we will load our June flight schedule, which includes roughly 650 daily departures, with updates to the remaining summer months to follow shortly. We will communicate these changes directly and proactively to customers and continue to prioritize safety, reliability and the elevated experience our customers have come to expect from United. Our hub structure remains intact and continues to grow year over year.

Chicago is our hometown, and because of the success we have had in winning brand loyal customers, we are the leading airline at ORD with a significantly larger presence than our competitors. **United's share of local Chicagoland passengers has increased by 10 points in the last 10 years.** This growth isn't about gate count – it's driven by the value we deliver to every customer, no matter where they sit on the plane. From our award-winning app, to our Elevated aircraft interiors, to the fastest, most reliable Wi-Fi from Starlink – we're giving every United customer more of what they want. And most importantly, we're doing a better job of taking care of our customers than anyone else – especially here in Chicago, where our team has delivered superior operational reliability month after month. Our quality operation at ORD is already the best on the field year-to-date and maintaining that leadership stays a top priority. The summer 2026 schedule will allow us to continue our growth plan in Chicago, even if at a slightly slower pace than originally planned.

Those 650 daily departures put us up 11% from 2025, and we will fly 13% more seats year over year by using a larger mix of mainline aircraft. Crucially, we've preserved the high-quality flight times customers want between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m., with minimal changes to our afternoon peak. Our new summer schedule supports the connectivity needed for our leading global long-haul network.

As always, we have been staffing up for summer. Now that we have clarity on the schedule, we do not expect any staff reductions as a result of the FAA order and plan to continue adding frontline and management roles.

We continue to work with the CDA and FAA to make sure ORD is set up for future expansion. However, we recognize that terminal construction and needed taxiway improvements will take time. These constraints will limit growth at ORD for an extended period, even after the FAA limitations expire later this year. We will stay agile and will increase our flying to the extent that FAA limitations allow and market factors require. Be sure to keep an eye on the [ORD Growth and Construction page](#) on Flying Together for updates throughout the summer.

We know schedule changes like this can raise questions, especially for those of you working directly with customers every day. Your flexibility, focus and care for our customers have built ORD into a star of the global United network.

Thanks to you, we continue to win Chicago.

**Omar**