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**Gary / Chicago International Airport Observes
Increased 2021 Aviation Operations**

Considerable Increase in Operations Demonstrates Increasing Pandemic Recovery in Aviation Industry

(Gary, IN – November 30th, 2021) – The Gary / Chicago International Airport (GCIA) experienced considerable increases in its aviation operations based on data comparing 2020 and 2021 yearly traffic rates, as well as November 2020 and November 2021 numbers. According to the data, the airport recorded 41% more traffic in November 2021 when compared to the previous year, as well as an increase of more than 1,020 operations in 2021 when compared to 2020 totals. These traffic counts demonstrate increasing recovery from the pandemic among aviation the industry.

“These increased operations at GCIA demonstrate the continued sustainability of our airport and the key role aviation will continue to play as we continue to emerge from the pandemic,” **said GCIA Board Authority Chairman Timothy Fesko**. “Notably, we have seen increased cargo operations over the past year, and we anticipate those operations to continue to increase as our airport continues to grow.”

In November 2021, GCIA reported 2,473 total operations, up from 1,452 total operations in November 2020, leading to a 41.3% increase in total traffic. In overall year-to-date air traffic, the airport recorded 20,125 total operations for the year 2021. This is up 12.8% from the previous year’s total of 17,551 operations.

“We have placed a strong emphasis on further developing our infrastructure and expanding our services and capabilities over the past several years, and these figures show the impact of our investments,” **said GCIA Executive Director Duane Hayden**. “Our continued improvements ensure we can meet growing demand and increasing traffic rates, and I hope to continue expanding GCIA’s capabilities.”

As Midway and O’Hare face increasing passenger demand, GCIA functions as a critical option, servicing important cargo and private operations and, in turn, freeing up needed capacity at the region’s two largest airports. Over the past several years, the airport has made significant improvements to its infrastructure, including the 2015 expansion of the airport’s main runway to nearly 9,000 feet in length, making it the second longest in the region after O’Hare. Last year, the airport finalized an agreement with United Parcel Service (UPS) for the company to begin Next Day Air Service operations, ultimately bolstering the airport’s operations capabilities and providing additional benefits to the Northwest Indiana and Chicago Metropolitan areas.

About Gary/Chicago International Airport

Located minutes from the shores of Lake Michigan and just 25 miles from downtown Chicago, Gary/Chicago International Airport (GCIA) is a full-service airport and a premiere destination for corporate and weekend flyers in the Chicago metropolitan region and Northwest Indiana. In 2020, UPS began its Next Day Air Service operations at GCIA. To learn more, visit the airport’s new website at FlyGYY.com.

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