

# *I'm going to our National Division Convention this June in Chicago. How do I get there?*

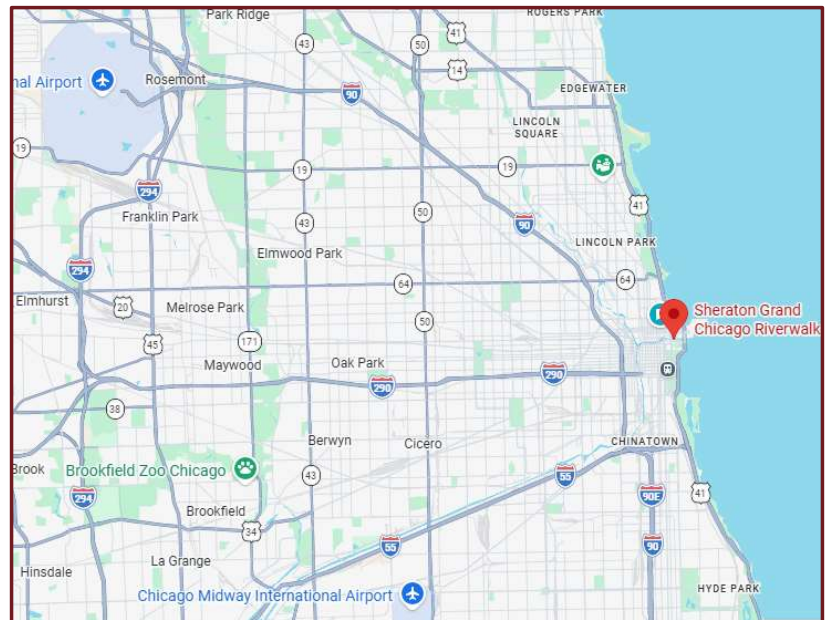
Our National Division Convention happens this year at the **Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk**, in the heart of Chicago on **301 E. North Water Street!**

Whether you plan to drive, fly, ride the train, or however you arrive, here are some tips to get you to the Convention!

**Want a direct trip from the airports? Know rough time and cost estimates for taking a cab or rideshare.**

**Arriving at Union Station? Find directions from the train station to the hotel if you're riding Amtrak.**

**Using Chicago's mass transit? Identify the routes, fares, or other tips when traveling with CTA or Metra.**



**Driving in with your own vehicle? Know what you need to do to ensure you have parking when you get to Chicago!**



**Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees Division – IBT**  
**6th Regular National Division Convention**  
**June 22 – 24, 2026 | Chicago, IL**

[www.bmwe.org/weleadtheway](http://www.bmwe.org/weleadtheway)

# Driving to the Convention?



If city traffic in downtown Chicago is no problem for you, you may choose to drive in to the hotel to attend the Convention.

**If you choose to drive, indicate that you will need parking when you complete your registration with our National Division staff so that we can secure parking for you! If in doubt about how you're set up, contact sister Amanda Carey at [acarey@bmwe.org](mailto:acarey@bmwe.org) to verify your arrangements!**



Photo from *National Lampoon's Vacation*. Warner Bros. 1983



Most routes will take you to I-90 or US-41 (Lakeshore Drive) before you exit the highway. Exits will vary based off your route.



Self-parking in the downtown Chicago area is available but can be hard to find and expensive. Attendees who choose to find their own parking do so at their own risk. Do **NOT** plan to use on-street parking options near the hotel.

The hotel location on E. North Water Street can be reached from Columbus Drive. It's across the river (north) from Wacker Drive and, while near the Lake, it can't be directly reached from Lakeshore Drive. We'll be in the heart of downtown, so expect some dense city driving after you leave the interstate!

Your route plan may take you onto tollways in the Chicago metro area. You can learn more about tollways at <https://illinoistollway.com>.

# Flying into O'Hare airport?



O'Hare International Airport is northwest of downtown Chicago, near the suburbs of Schiller Park, Elk Grove Village, and CPKCs Bensenville Yard.

Regardless of how you travel from O'Hare, plan for up to an hour to 90 minutes of travel time from the airport to the hotel, depending on road traffic conditions or rail stops.

## LEAVING O'HARE



By taxi or rideshare – average fare is around \$50

The pickup area for rideshare (Uber, Lyft) in Terminal 2 is on the upper level and marked with orange signs. For Terminal 3, look for the green signs on the Upper Level.

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The Chicago Transit Authority's "L" train system has a train line from O'Hare to downtown Chicago. The **CTA Blue Line** trains operate 24 hours a day. Fares are \$5 from the airport, with free transfers to other "L" trains or CTA buses (2 additional rides in 2 hours).

O'Hare has a dedicated CTA station for the Blue Line from terminals 1, 2, and 3. Follow the "Trains to City" signs.



Ride the Blue Line to **Washington & Clark/Dearborn**. Transfers to the **CTA 124 (Navy Pier) bus** can take you to the hotel (Columbus & North Water stop), departing every 30 minutes from the "L" station. Check [transitchicago.com/bus/124/](https://transitchicago.com/bus/124/) or local signage for first bus/last bus times. Other CTA buses also work.



If you choose to walk from the "L" station to the hotel, it's a 0.8-mile walk (roughly 20 minutes). Go east to Millennium Park, then north at Columbus Drive to cross the river.

# Flying into O'Hare airport?



O'Hare International Airport is northwest of downtown Chicago, near the suburbs of Schiller Park, Elk Grove Village, and CPKCs Bensenville Yard.

Chicago's Metra commuter rail system also has a route from O'Hare airport to Chicago's Union Station!

## LEAVING O'HARE



Go to the O'Hare Transfer Station for Metra's North Central Service to downtown. The fare for Metra is \$3.75. with a **35-minute trip**.

To get to the O'Hare Transfer Station, use O'Hare's Airport Transit System (ATS), located at all terminals.



Chicago Transit Authority  
124 Navy Pier

From Union Station, the **CTA 124 (Navy Pier) bus** can take you to the **Columbus & North Water bus stop** right next to the hotel! Metra fares do not transfer to CTA, so the bus fare from Union Station to the hotel is \$2.25 with a CTA card, \$2.50 cash on the bus. Check [transitchicago.com/bus/124/](https://transitchicago.com/bus/124/) or local signage for first bus/last bus times.



Walking from Union Station to the hotel is a roughly 40-minute walk (1-1/2 miles) through downtown Chicago. It's doable, but likely not very convenient with a roller bag or suitcase! Grab a rideshare or take the CTA bus instead!

You can always plan your own transit from O'Hare to the Convention. Get more info to make your own plans at <https://www.flychicago.com/ohare/tofrom/pages/default.aspx>

# Flying into Midway airport?



Midway International Airport is southwest of downtown Chicago, right among several rail yards where our members work!

Regardless of how you travel from Midway, plan for around half an hour of travel time from the airport to the hotel, depending on road traffic conditions.

## LEAVING MIDWAY



By taxi or rideshare – average fares range from \$35-40

The pickup area for rideshare (Uber, Lyft) is on the Lower Level outside Baggage Claim, Doors 2-4.

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The Chicago Transit Authority's "L" train system has a train line from Midway to downtown Chicago. The CTA Orange Line trains between Midway and the Loop "L" run from 4 AM and 1 AM on weekdays. Fares are \$2.50 from the airport, with free transfers to other "L" trains or CTA buses (2 additional rides in 2 hours).

To get to the Orange Line, take the enclosed walkway from the airport terminal to the Midway Transportation Center. Your closest stop to the hotel is Clark/Lake.



Transfers to the CTA 124 (Navy Pier) bus, which can take you to the hotel (Columbus & North Water stop) depart every 30 minutes from the CTA Washington station (Washington & Clark/Dearborn. Check [transitchicago.com/bus/124/](https://transitchicago.com/bus/124/) or local signage for first bus/last bus times. Other buses also work, too!



Walking from the Clark/Lake "L" train station to the hotel takes roughly 20 minutes. Go east to Columbus Drive, then turn left to go north across the river.

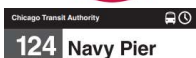
## Other Travel Notes

Should you need help planning your trip home, look for return trip guidance once you arrive at the Convention.



If you're staying a while in Chicago and want to see the sights, CTA and Metra also offer an app that can help you plan routes, see schedules, and save money on fares. Check out CTA's Ventra app at <https://www.ventrachicago.com>.

You can also purchase a Ventra fare card, good for both CTA and Metra fares. Check out the Ventra website for details.



If you're taking Amtrak to get to Chicago, you'll arrive at Union Station. From Union Station, the CTA 124 (Navy Pier) bus can take you to the **Columbus & North Water** stop right next to the hotel! The bus fare from Union Station to the hotel is \$2.25 with a CTA card, \$2.50 cash on the bus. Check [transitchicago.com/bus/124/](https://transitchicago.com/bus/124/) or local signage for first bus/last bus times.



## *Parking Your Personal Vehicle?*

If you're driving to the Convention and need a place to park your vehicle, here is some guidance to help you out!



The Ogden Plaza Garage offers direct access to the Convention venue. Once inside, you can follow signs for the Sheraton Grand Chicago Riverwalk. **MAKE SURE YOU RESERVE PARKING IN ADVANCE, AS THE GARAGE MAY SELL OUT!**

<https://spothero.com/OgdenPlazaParking>

Ogden Plaza Parking  
300 Lower North Water St.  
Chicago, IL 60611

The entrance to this parking garage is on LOWER North Water Street, a covered street in downtown Chicago. A satellite image will not show it to you. Use Waze or a similar direction app, as screenshots will not show you how to get there.



HIGH CLEARANCE VEHICLES - If you plan a driving a vehicle requiring a higher clearance (greater than 6'8"), the Ogden Plaza Parking won't work for your vehicle. Other options include 181 N. Clark Street (Government Center Self Park), a 20-minute walk from the hotel, or 50 E. Ohio St. (ROW Parking Garage), a 12-minute walk from the hotel. Parking is likely limited at either location, so call ahead to reserve your space!