

Converged Wireless Networks

Chicago, IL

SCENARIO

Smart cities start with smart buildings. To create a more efficient environment for people to live, work and play, Chicago has embraced this concept head-on, seeking out public-private wireless partnerships to digitize operations, streamline transportation and enhance live events at key locations and attractions—connecting the Windy City from the inside out.

SOLUTION

The city launched hyperconnected, converged wireless networks from Boingo Wireless at high-traffic venues: Chicago O'Hare International Airport, Midway International Airport and Soldier Field, home of the NFL's Chicago Bears and the MLS Chicago Fire FC, as well as the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center and the 50-story One North Wacker building.

The end-to-end networks feature 5G over millimeter wave and Wi-Fi. In addition, private LTE, powered by CBRS 3.5 GHz spectrum, offers the city more coverage and capacity, has strong network security and is scalable for private 5G connectivity.

RESULTS

By consolidating segregated networking solutions, Chicago can realize cost savings. Meanwhile, converged networks, a mobile edge computing architecture and a strong public-private partnership with Boingo enables the city to reduce traffic congestion, improve safety and enhance the civilian experience.

Now and after COVID-19, the converged networks can support capabilities like biometric sensing, thermal screening and touchless experiences like contactless entry and concessions, giving large venues the foundation to create healthier and safer environments. The private LTE and private 5G connectivity also offer the potential to:

- + **Reduce congestion and prevent accidents at airports** via IoT sensors that allow traffic conditions to be analyzed in real time
- + **Equip stadiums with real-time security** through 5G-powered video surveillance systems that use 4K cameras and biometrics devices
- + **Help commercial real estate enterprises improve efficiencies and decrease operational costs** via private, secure communications