



The Wayne County Airport Authority invites applications for
Director of Airside Infrastructure

Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW)
Willow Run Airport (YIP)
Detroit, Michigan

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADK CONSULTING & EXECUTIVE SEARCH



The Organization

The Wayne County Airport Authority (WCAA) is responsible for the management and operation of Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport and Willow Run Airport. The Authority is governed by an independent, seven-member Board of Directors who appoint a Chief Executive Officer. WCAA employs more than 600 highly skilled and talented individuals across several disciplines, while the airports are home to approximately 16,000 jobs.

WCAA’s mission statement is:
“To operate safe, secure and dynamic air transportation facilities for our customers, creating economic vitality by providing global travel, cargo and business opportunities.”



The Airport

Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) is a major international airport in the United States. DTW is Michigan's busiest airport and one of the world's largest air transportation hubs. The airport has two award-winning passenger terminals, six jet runways, and an onsite AAA Four-Diamond Westin Hotel. The property covers 7,072 acres in Romulus, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. DTW is among the world's most efficient, customer-friendly and operationally capable airports in North America.

DTW carries out its mission and thrives for countless reasons. A few stand out including the staff's dedication to delivering an excellent customer experience, the ongoing investment in infrastructure, and the airport's connectivity. DTW offers approximately 800 flights per day to and from three continents. Passengers have noticed, as evidenced by exemplary Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Survey and J.D. Power scores.

Detroit Metropolitan Airport provides service from 13 scheduled passenger airlines. DTW is a hub for Delta Air Lines, and a focus city for Spirit Airlines. Other significant operators at the airport include:

- Aeromexico
- Air Canada
- Air France
- Alaska Airlines
- American Airlines
- Frontier Airlines
- JetBlue
- Lufthansa
- Royal Jordanian Airlines
- Southwest Airlines
- United Airlines
- FedEx
- United Parcel Service (UPS)
- DHL
- Fixed Based Operator – Signature Flight Support

Willow Run Airport (YIP) serves cargo, corporate and general aviation clients and has excellent services and infrastructure for airports in its class. It is one of the nation's largest airports for landed air freight flown exclusively by cargo aircraft. Carriers based at Willow Run transport a wide range of cargo, including high-value automotive and electronic components, emergency medical supplies, mail and packages.





The Community

Detroit is the largest city in the Midwestern state of Michigan. Near Downtown, the neoclassical Detroit Institute of Arts, is famed for Diego Rivera murals inspired by the city's long-standing ties to the auto industry, which earned it the nickname "Motor City." Detroit is also the birthplace of Motown Records, whose chart-topping history is on display at Hitsville U.S.A. From Hart Plaza on the riverfront, visitors can see the cityscape of Windsor, Canada while experiencing Detroit's many festivals. Nearby on beautiful Belle Isle sits the oldest aquarium in the nation and a stunning conservatory.

Dining: Detroit is known throughout the Midwest as a destination for fine and casual dining, with an emphasis on in-season fresh produce from across the state. From longtime favorites in Greektown to trendy upscale restaurants in newly revitalized areas, it's truly a culinary delight to visit the city for breakfast, lunch or dinner. The Eastern Market is also a longtime tradition that foodies and restaurateurs alike travel for miles to visit for a variety of incredible produce and goods. It is truly a spectacular one-of-a-kind experience.

Culture: Just three miles from downtown, head to Detroit's Cultural Center, which is full of art, science and history museums. Check out the 100 galleries of The Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA), with a collection that is among the top six in the United States. Reproductions of artwork from the DIA are on display at DTW. Explore the Detroit Historical Museum with its popular Streets of Detroit showcase. Travel through time at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. Visit the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) for an edgier arts experience. Performing arts offerings include Broadway shows, headliner entertainers, opera, dance, and more at the Fox Theatre, Detroit Opera House, Fisher Theatre, and Max M. Fisher Music Center.



Position Overview

The Director of Airside Infrastructure provides executive leadership for the planning, design, and construction of complex airport infrastructure across Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport (DTW) and Willow Run Airport (YIP). This role oversees capital projects that ensure operational continuity, regulatory compliance, and long-term asset sustainability.

This position leads multidisciplinary teams responsible for delivering high-visibility, technically complex projects that support two dynamic aviation environments.

About the Role

The Director sets strategic direction for design and construction initiatives, aligning departmental priorities with Airport Authority goals. This leader ensures projects are delivered safely, on schedule, within budget, and in compliance with all federal, state, and local requirements.

Serving as a key liaison to senior management, government agencies, consultants, and contractors, the Director represents the Airport Authority in matters related to capital development and facilities improvement.





Key Responsibilities

- Direct all airfield design and construction projects at DTW and YIP
- Oversee consultant and construction contracts, including procurement and administration
- Manage federal, state, and local grant compliance and reporting
- Ensure ADA, Title VI, and regulatory compliance across assigned projects
- Develop and oversee department and project budgets, presenting to executive leadership and the Board
- Resolve complex construction challenges and promote strong job-site safety practices
- Lead and mentor Deputy Directors, Project Managers, Engineers, Architects, Estimators, and support staff

Leadership Qualities and Style

- Strategic thinker who aligns infrastructure development with long-term airport objectives
- Collaborative leader who builds strong cross-functional partnerships
- Decisive problem-solver comfortable managing high-stakes capital programs
- Clear communicator skilled in executive and public presentations

For the full job description, [click here](#).

Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Architecture, Engineering, or a related field
- Ten (10) or more years leading large-scale capital facility projects
- An equivalent combination of education and relevant experience may be considered
- Registered Architect or Licensed Professional Engineer (P.E.) required
- Experience in aviation or complex public infrastructure environments

Salary and Benefits

The starting salary range for this position is \$155,000 - \$170,000 with an attractive benefits package.



How To Apply

To apply online, [click here](#).

Deadline for applications: May 3, 2026

The contact for this search is:

Kenneth Gwyn, A.A.E.

kenneth@adkexecutivesearch.com

The Wayne County Airport Authority is committed to provide an equal opportunity for employment, free from discrimination, prejudice, and bias.

