

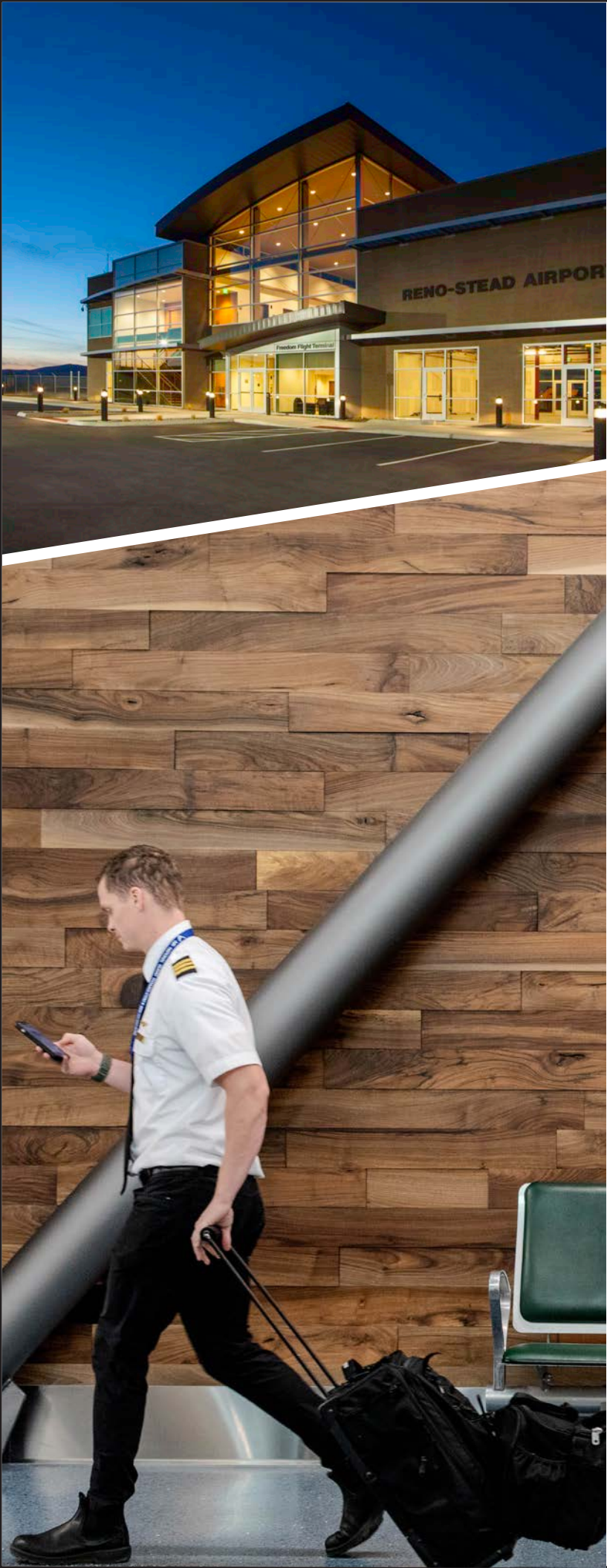


**Reno-Tahoe  
International  
Airport**

**Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority invites applications for  
Chief Operations & Public Safety Officer**

Reno-Tahoe International Airport (RNO) and Reno-Tahoe Stead Airport (RTS)  
Reno, NV

*EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES PROVIDED BY ADK CONSULTING & EXECUTIVE SEARCH*



## The Airport

### **About the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority**

The Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority (RTAA) operates at the intersection of commerce, community, and connectivity, managing two vital aviation facilities that serve as powerful economic engines for northern Nevada. As owner and operator of both Reno-Tahoe International Airport (RNO) and Reno-Stead Airport (RTS), the RTAA connects a dynamic region to the world.

### **Governance and Financial Independence**

The RTAA operates as a quasi-municipal corporation that is financially self-sufficient and independent of local government structures. The Authority maintains strong credit ratings of A3 (Moody's), A with stable outlook (S&P), and A+ with stable outlook (Kroll), reflecting its sound fiscal management.

Governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees appointed by the City of Reno (four members), City of Sparks (two members), Washoe County (two members), and the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (one member), the Authority represents the diverse voices of the region it serves. Board members serve staggered four-year terms, ensuring continuity and institutional knowledge. Critically, the RTAA receives no state or local tax revenue – operations are funded entirely through airport revenues, including tenant fees, concessions, parking, and rental car operations.

### **Reno-Tahoe International Airport (RNO): A Regional Powerhouse**

RNO stands as one of the region's most significant economic assets, generating an estimated \$3.6 billion in annual economic impact. The airport served 4.9 million passengers in 2025 (the busiest year since 2008). As the 67th busiest commercial passenger airport in the nation, RNO functions like a small city, with approximately 3,000 employees (approximately 300 of whom work directly for the RTAA) working across various companies and operations.

Located just four miles southeast of Reno's central business district and less than an hour from world-class ski resorts and Lake Tahoe, RNO serves as the ultimate gateway to the region. The airport provides service through eleven commercial airlines, three cargo carriers, and offers 20+ nonstop destinations throughout the United States and Mexico (including a brand new nonstop to Nashville starting Oct. 1), with convenient one-stop connections to virtually anywhere in the world.

## The Airport *(continued)*

The airport's cargo operations occupy approximately 25 acres and transported more than 102 million pounds of air cargo in 2024. This robust cargo infrastructure supports the region's thriving distribution and e-commerce sectors, including major operations from companies like Amazon, Walmart, and Tesla.

### **Reno-Stead Airport (RTS): Aviation Innovation and Community Service**

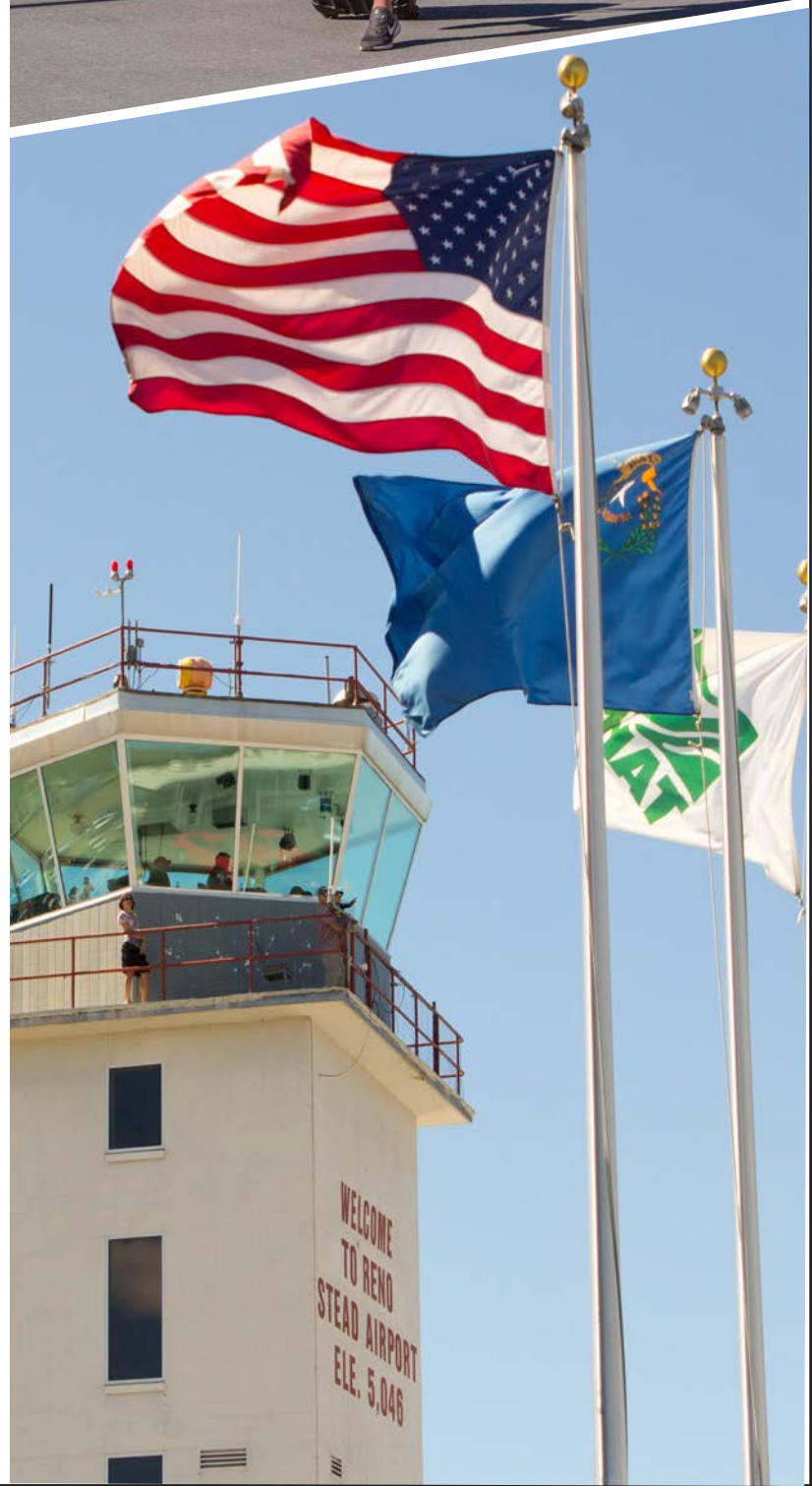
RTS encompasses over 5,000 acres and serves as a critical general aviation facility and reliever airport for RNO, hosting approximately 200 based aircraft. The airport supports military operations including the Nevada Army National Guard, and an FAA-designated UAS test range. From 1966-2023, RTS was home to the legendary Reno National Championship Air Races. The facility has also evolved to support emergency services, partnering with the Bureau of Land Management to develop air tanker firefighting capabilities – adding more than 9,000 feet of new runways and upgraded lighting systems.

### **Building for the Future**

The RTAA is currently undertaking MoreRNO, a transformative billion-dollar infrastructure program – the largest in the airport's history – that includes two new concourses that are roughly double the size of the existing concourses, 100% gate replacement, a ground transportation center, and an expanded Ticketing Hall designed to support decades of regional growth. These investments, coupled with expanding air service and strategic partnerships with tourism and economic development organizations, position the RTAA as a forward-thinking authority ready to meet the evolving needs of one of America's fastest-growing regions.

The RTS Master Plan update is actively underway, with a completion date of late 2027. This comprehensive update will evaluate the evolving aviation needs, including general aviation, cargo, FBO and other aeronautical uses. The update will also address future opportunities for potential aeronautical and non-aeronautical development.

RTS offers transformative development potential with over 3,000 acres of developable land, including a master-planned airport-centric business park partnering with Dermody Properties for industrial and commercial development. RTAA owns approximately 37% of vacant industrial land in Washoe County and 60% of Reno's industrial/mixed-use-zoned land, positioning RTS as a premier economic development opportunity generating high-wage jobs while supporting regional growth.





## The Community

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### **Reno-Tahoe and Northern Nevada: A Region Experiencing Sustained Growth**

Situated along the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada and anchored by the Lake Tahoe Basin, Reno-Tahoe serves as the economic center of northern Nevada. The region combines steady population growth, economic diversification, and access to outdoor recreation, making it an increasingly attractive place to live and work.

### **Quality of Life and Environment**

Reno-Tahoe is widely recognized for its access to outdoor recreation. The region averages approximately 300 days of sunshine per year, and residents are within an hour's drive of Lake Tahoe, which supports year-round recreation including skiing, hiking, boating, and cycling.

The Truckee River runs directly through downtown Reno, linking vibrant urban amenities with outdoor access. Multiple ski resorts, trail systems, and public lands are located within short driving distance, contributing to a lifestyle that balances professional commitments with recreation.

The thriving region's cultural offerings continue to expand, including the Nevada Museum of Art, performing arts venues, and annual events such as the Great Reno Balloon Race and the Reno Rodeo. The region's dining and hospitality sectors have grown alongside its population, reflecting broader demographic and economic shifts.

### **Population and Demographics**

Reno is the largest city in northern Nevada, with an estimated population of approximately 280,000 residents as of 2024. The Reno-Sparks metropolitan statistical area exceeds 575,000 residents, placing it among the 100 largest metro areas in the United States.

Population growth in northern Nevada has been driven largely by domestic migration, particularly from neighboring Western states. The region's workforce reflects a mix of established industries and emerging sectors, supported by a growing base of skilled professionals and entrepreneurs.

# The Community *(continued)*

## **Economic Diversification**

Over the past two decades, Reno-Tahoe and northern Nevada have broadened their economic base well beyond gaming and tourism. The region now supports significant activity in advanced manufacturing, battery technology, data infrastructure, distribution, and logistics.

The Tahoe Reno Industrial Center (TRIC), one of the largest industrial parks in North America, is home to major operations for companies such as Tesla, Panasonic, Google, Switch, and UPS. Tesla's Gigafactory Nevada is one of the world's highest volume plants for electric motors, energy storage products, vehicle powertrains and batteries.

Nevada's tax structure – including no state personal income tax – continues to be a factor in corporate and residential relocation decisions. Combined with proximity to California markets and access to Interstate 80 and major rail corridors, northern Nevada functions as a key distribution hub for the western United States.

## **Education, Workforce and Aviation Pathways**

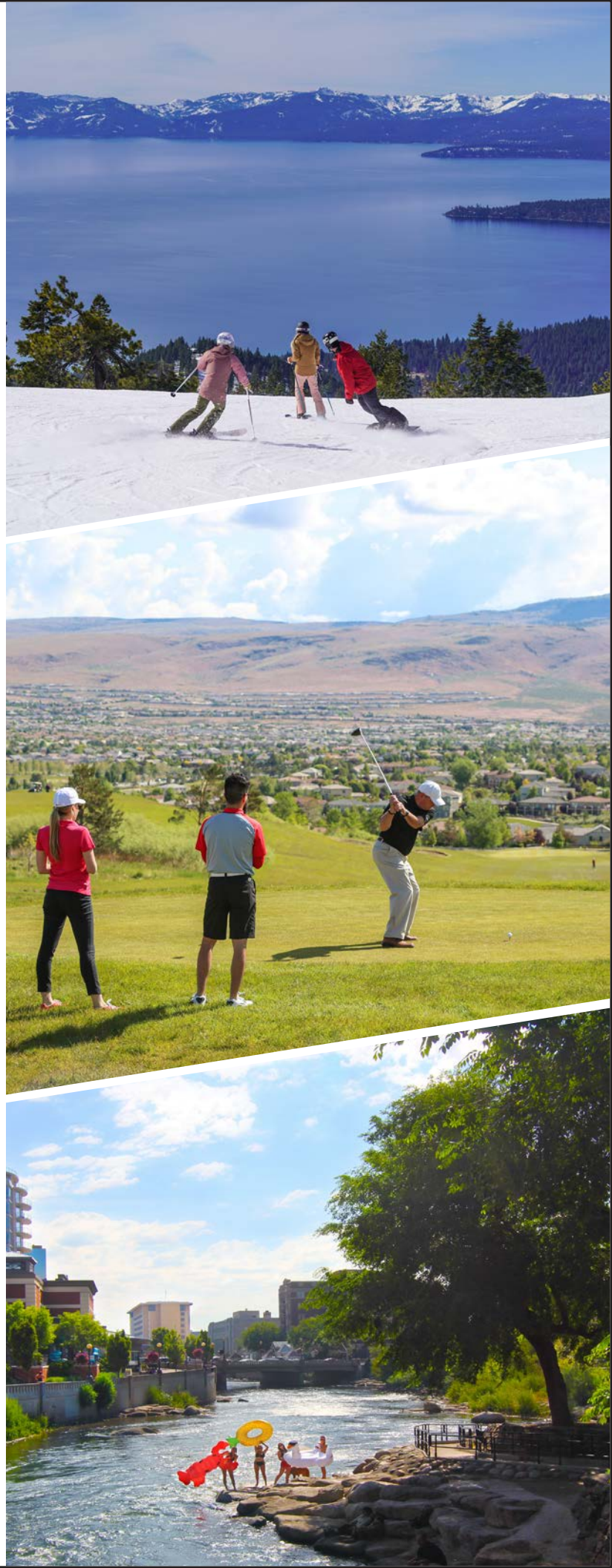
The region's workforce development is supported by the University of Nevada, Reno, a Carnegie R1 research institution, and Nevada's flagship university. The university contributes research capacity in engineering, environmental science, mining, business, and health sciences, and provides a steady pipeline of graduates to regional employers.

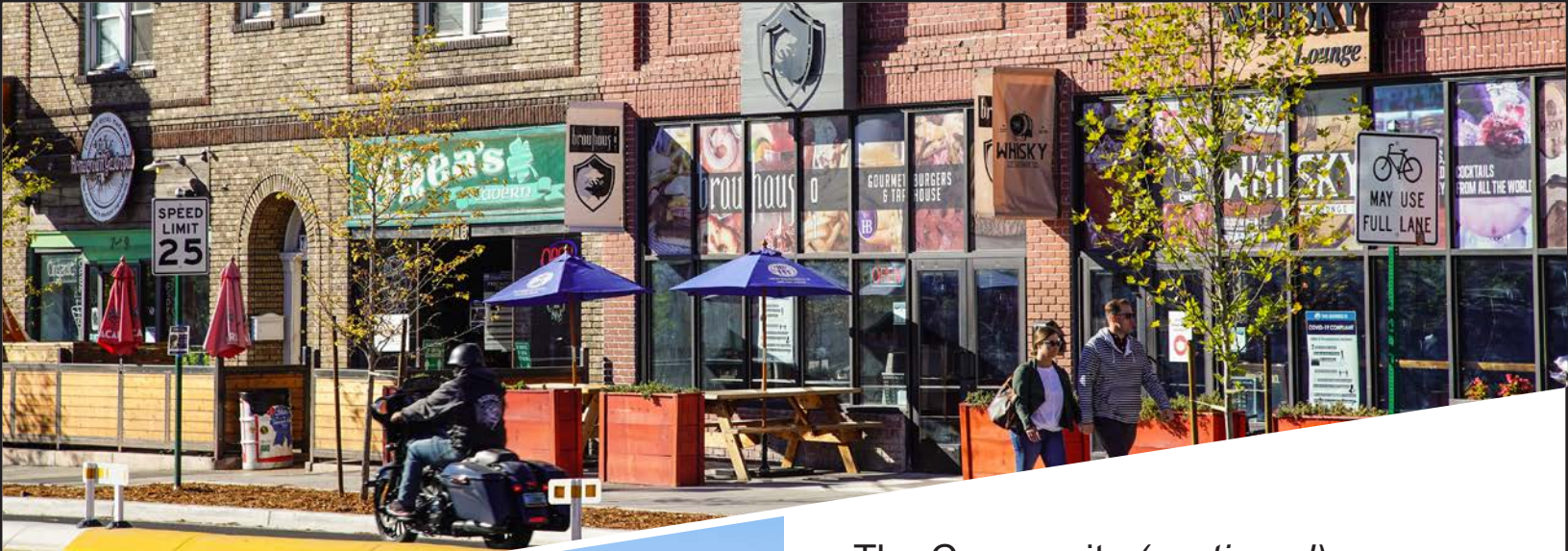
Truckee Meadows Community College and Western Nevada College further expand technical and vocational training opportunities across Northern Nevada.

Complementing these efforts, organizations such as the George W. Gillemot Foundation are expanding access to aviation education, mentorship, and flight training for northern Nevada students. These initiatives are designed to reduce financial and information barriers to entry and offer early exposure to aviation fundamentals in order to create clearer pathways from classroom to cockpit, maintenance hangar, air traffic control, or airport management.



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## The Community (*continued*)

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### **Regional Investment and Infrastructure Growth**

Northern Nevada is currently experiencing significant public and private investment across multiple sectors.

The airport is undertaking its MoreRNO capital improvement program, a billion-dollar phased redevelopment initiative focused on modernizing facilities, replacing aging concourses, upgrading infrastructure, and improving passenger experience.

This airport modernization effort is occurring alongside major private-sector expansions. The nearby Grand Sierra Resort has announced a substantial multi-phase redevelopment project that includes hotel tower renovations, arena improvements, and expanded entertainment amenities. Additional mixed-use and residential developments are underway throughout Reno and Sparks, reflecting continued demand for housing and commercial space.

Industrial expansion at TRIC and other employment centers in Storey and Washoe counties remains active, with ongoing facility construction and planned capacity increases from several major employers.

Collectively, these investments indicate sustained confidence in the region's economic trajectory and infrastructure needs.

### **Strategic Location and Connectivity**

Reno-Tahoe's geographic position between Northern California and the Intermountain West provides logistical advantages for both commerce and travel. Interstate 80, Union Pacific rail lines, and regional highways connect Northern Nevada to West Coast ports and inland markets.

As the primary commercial airport serving the region, the airport plays a central role in supporting tourism, business travel, advanced manufacturing supply chains, and regional mobility.

Additional information can be found at [www.livability.com/nv/reno](http://www.livability.com/nv/reno).





## Position Overview

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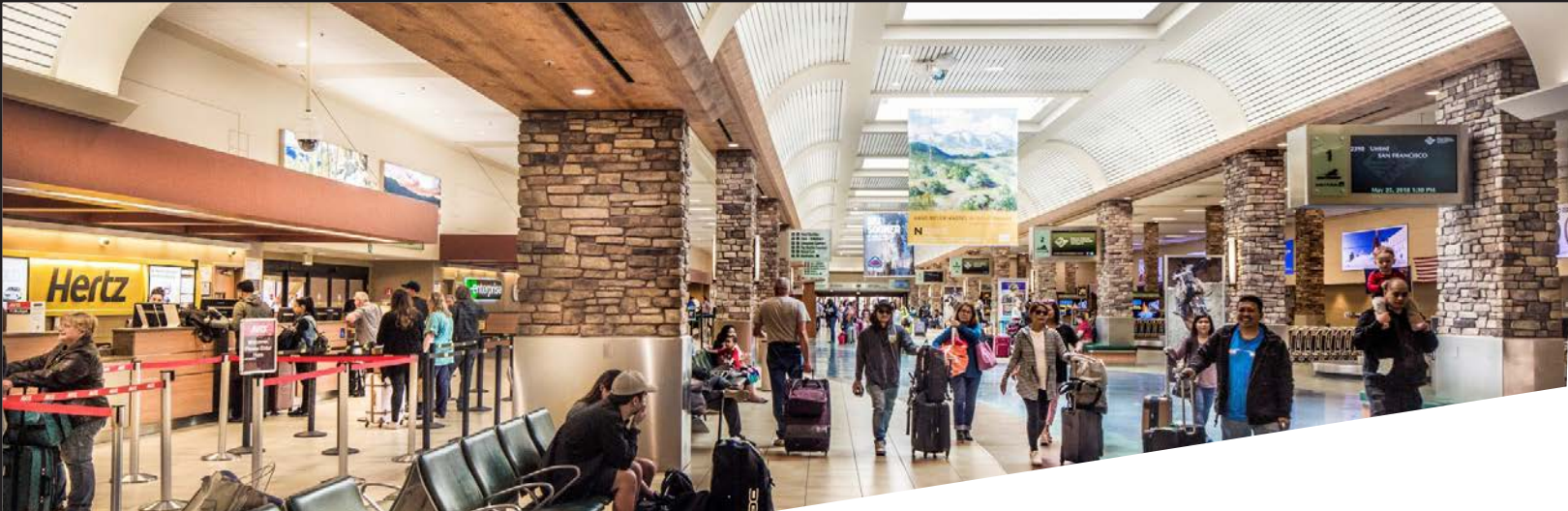
The Chief Operations & Public Safety Officer serves as a key member of the Executive Leadership Team, reporting directly to the President/CEO and providing strategic leadership for all airport operations and public safety functions at Reno-Tahoe International Airport and Reno-Stead General Aviation Airport. This executive oversees the Airport Authority's operations, public safety, security, and general aviation divisions, ensuring safe, secure, and efficient airport operations that support the organization's strategic priorities. The position plays a critical role in advancing operational excellence, organizational performance, and long-term planning while fostering collaboration across the Authority and with regional, state, and federal partners.

## About the Role

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This role provides executive leadership for a diverse portfolio of operational and public safety programs within a dynamic aviation environment. The Chief Operations & Public Safety Officer works closely with executive leadership to align divisional initiatives with organizational goals, oversee strategic planning, manage operational and capital resources, and guide policy development. The position cultivates strong relationships with airlines, fixed-base operators, government agencies, emergency response organizations, and community stakeholders while ensuring compliance with aviation regulations and supporting future airport development. As a leader in emergency preparedness and operational resilience, the role balances day-to-day oversight with long-term innovation and continuous improvement.





## Key Responsibilities

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- Lead strategic direction for airport operations, public safety, security, and general aviation functions.
- Oversee divisional planning, performance, budgets, policies, and operational priorities.
- Direct safe, secure, and efficient airport operations while ensuring regulatory compliance.
- Guide long-range operational planning, capital improvement initiatives, and resource allocation.
- Develop and mentor a high-performing leadership team that fosters collaboration and continuous improvement.
- Represent the Airport Authority with airlines, government agencies, industry organizations, and community stakeholders.
- Utilize operational data and performance metrics to support informed decision-making and organizational improvement.
- Champion innovation, emergency preparedness, and enterprise-wide operational excellence.

## Leadership Qualities and Style

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The ideal candidate is a strategic, collaborative executive who leads with integrity, sound judgment, and an enterprise-wide perspective. They excel at building high-performing teams, fostering a culture of accountability, innovation, and continuous improvement, and developing strong relationships across diverse stakeholder groups. This leader communicates effectively in complex environments, embraces thoughtful decision-making, and inspires confidence during both routine operations and emergency situations. Success in this role requires a forward-thinking mindset, exceptional interpersonal skills, and a commitment to operational excellence, customer service, and organizational growth.

## Preferred Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Airport/Aviation Management, Business Administration, Public Administration, or a related field.
- Minimum of ten years of progressively responsible leadership experience in commercial airport operations and/or aviation public safety.
- Demonstrated success leading complex operational organizations and multidisciplinary teams.
- Strong knowledge of FAA regulations, airport operations, aviation public safety, and emergency management.
- Experience with strategic planning, financial management, capital planning, and labor-management collaboration.
- Valid driver's license with the ability to obtain and maintain airport security credentials.

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

## Salary and Benefits

The salary range for this position is \$183,475 – 234,930. A possible annual performance bonus may be included.

## How To Apply

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

**Deadline for applications: August 9, 2026**

The contacts for this search are:

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*The RTAA is an organization that THRIVES by living our core values and by honoring the dignity of all individuals. With teamwork, respect, versatility and a focus on excellence, we serve our employees and our community with pride and passion. We are a drug-free workplace, and an equal opportunity employer committed to providing a healthy work environment.*

