

Reno-Tahoe International Airport

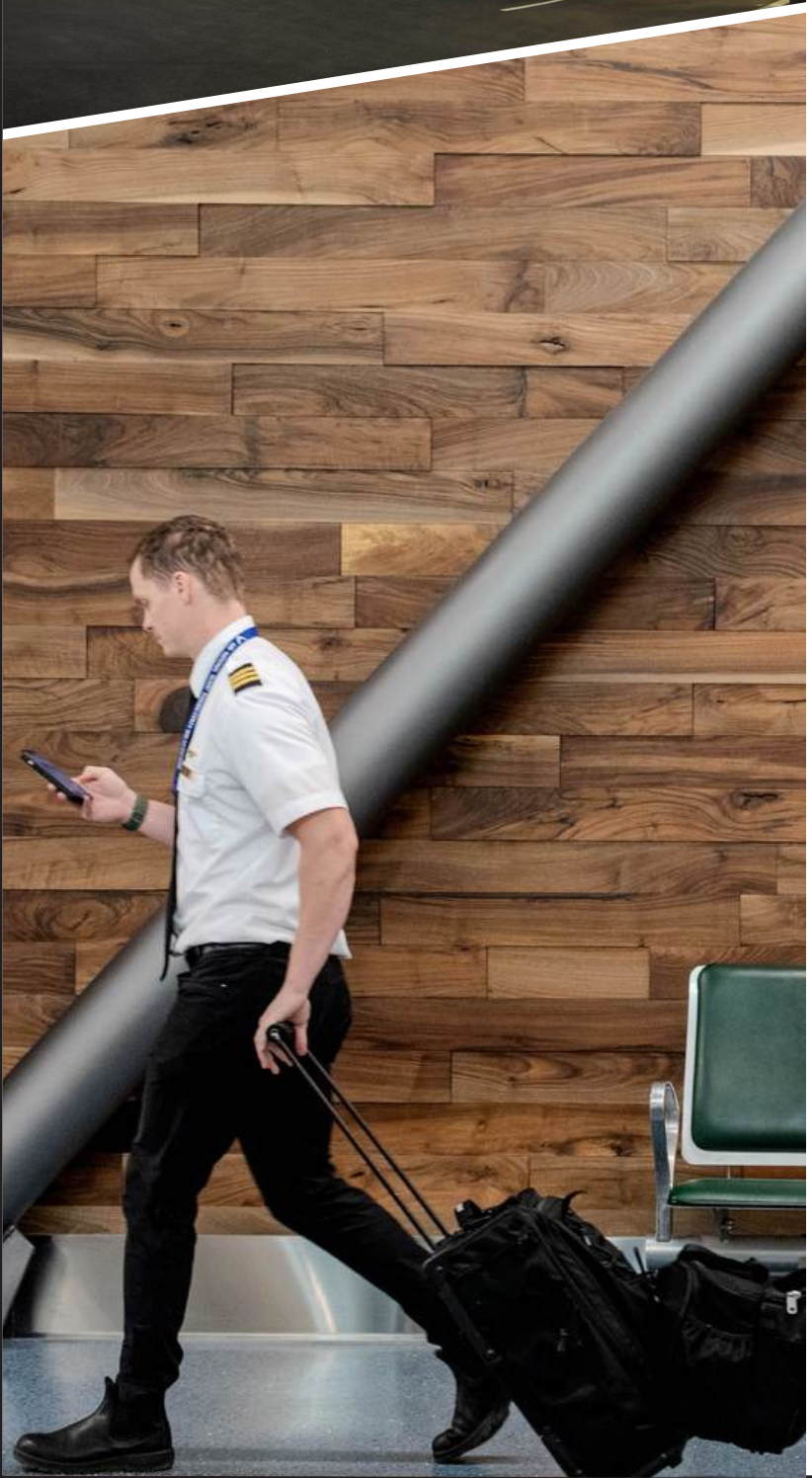
Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority invites applications for

Chief Engineering and Infrastructure Officer

Reno-Tahoe International Airport (RNO) and Reno-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
RTAA operates as a quasi-municipal corporation that is financially self-sufficient and independent of local government structures. RTAA maintains strong bond ratings of A3 from Moody's, A from Standard & Poors, and A+ from 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 new Southwest Airlines nonstop service to Nashville, launched in October 2026), 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.

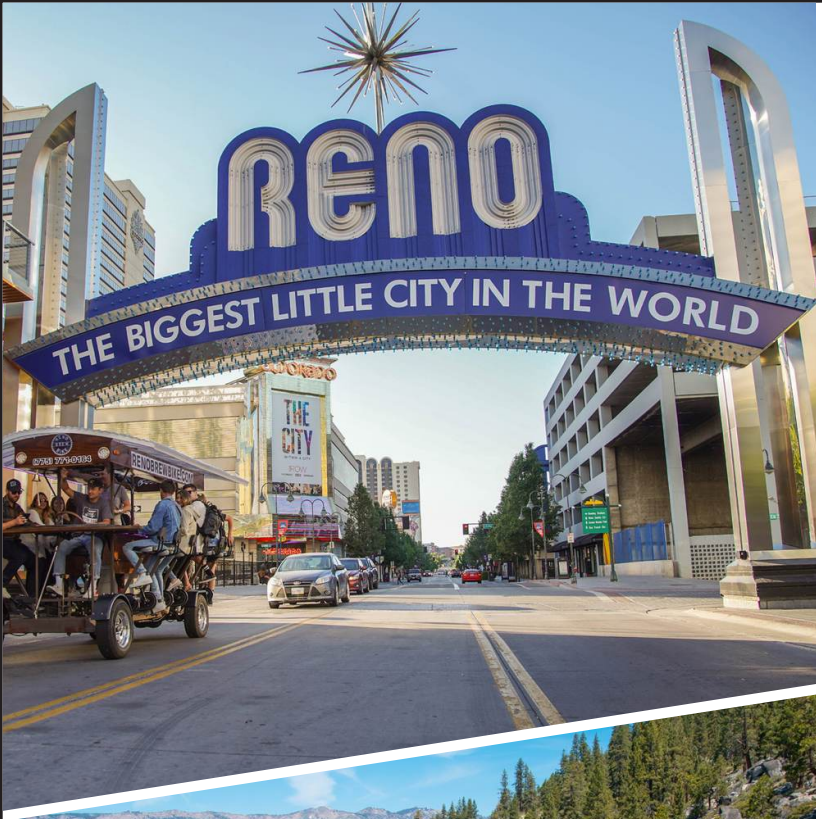
Building for the Future
The RTAA is currently undertaking MoreRNO, a transformative billion-dollar infrastructure program – the largest in the airport's history – that includes two new concourses that are roughly double the size of the existing concourses, 100% gate replacement, a ground transportation 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

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.



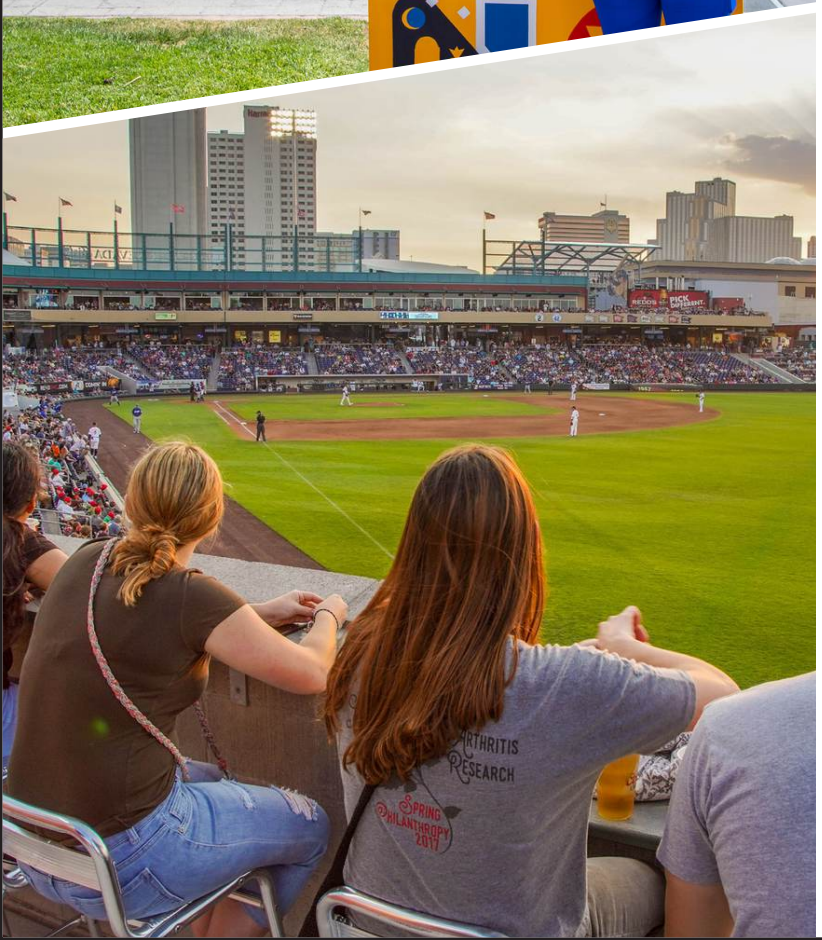




Reno-Tahoe International Airport







The Community *(continued)*

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.](www.livability.com/nv/reno)



Position Overview

The Chief Engineering and Infrastructure Officer is a member of the Executive Team, reporting directly to the President/CEO and providing executive leadership for the planning, design, construction and maintenance of all Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority facilities at Reno-Tahoe International Airport (RNO), Reno-Stead Airport (RTS) and other RTAA-owned properties. The position oversees the Planning and Environmental, Engineering and Construction, Facilities, Building Maintenance & Services, and Airfield Maintenance Departments, and leads the team responsible for successful delivery of MoreRNO, the RTAA's $1 billion investment in facility expansion and modernization at RNO.

About the Role

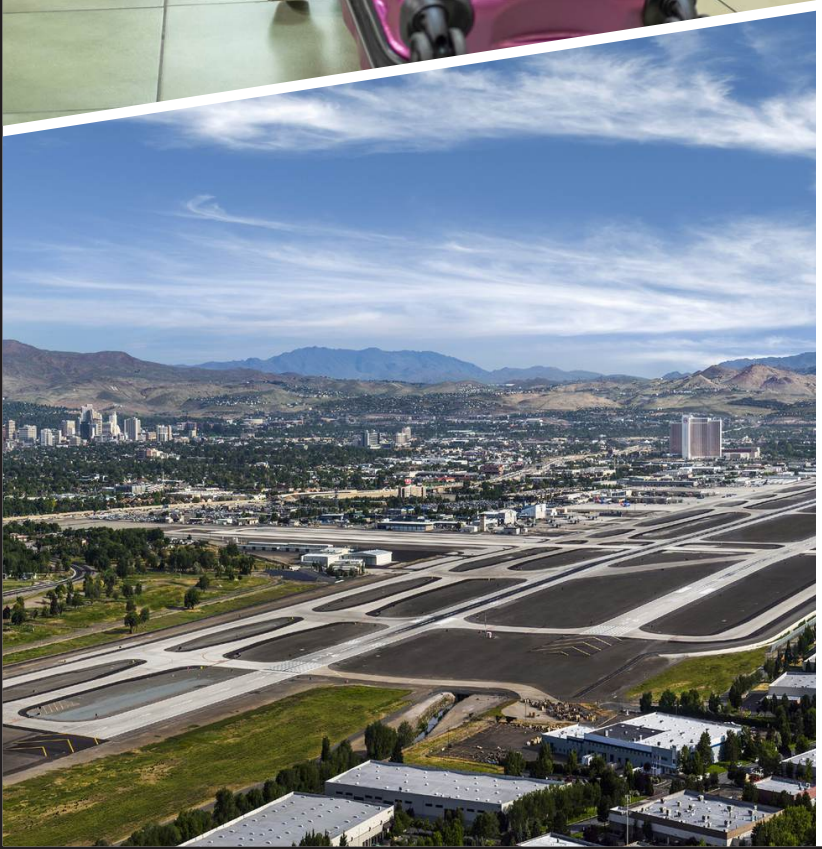
This executive directs the full life cycle of airport infrastructure, from long-range master planning, environmental review and the Airport Capital Improvement Program through design oversight, procurement, construction management, quality assurance and facility maintenance. Leading the Authority's largest division, which includes professional, technical, maintenance and custodial staff, the Chief Engineering and Infrastructure Officer is the RTAA's principal point of contact for engineering, planning, program-management and architectural consultants, and represents the Authority before the Board of Trustees, the FAA, airline partners, elected officials, agencies and community groups.











Key Responsibilities

- Serve on the Executive Team, contributing to vision, strategic planning, budget and organization-level decisions.
- Lead the team delivering MoreRNO, the RTAA's $1 billion facility expansion and modernization program.
- Lead the long-range capital improvement program and related capital and operating budgets.
- Direct master planning, the Airport Layout Plan, noise abatement, environmental compliance, and land use and zoning reviews.
- Oversee consultant procurement, professional services agreements, contract awards and contract administration.
- Lead FAA coordination, including the monthly FAA and RTAA meeting and FAA grant programs with Finance.
- Represent the RTAA with the Board of Trustees, airlines, agencies, elected officials and community groups.
- Develop and mentor staff in collaboration with People Operations and in compliance with collective bargaining agreements.

Leadership Qualities and Style

The ideal candidate is a big-picture, collaborative executive and strong communicator who can lead multiple departments, complex work, consultants and competing priorities at once. This leader develops and mentors people, provides steady direction during organizational change, and works effectively with strong personalities. They build productive relationships with staff, consultants, the Board and a represented workforce, approaching labor relations collaboratively, and they communicate technical matters clearly to boards, elected officials and the public.

Required Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in Architecture, Engineering, Environmental Management, Planning or a closely related field.
- Ten years of airport, public works or other large-scale infrastructure experience, including at least six years of management experience at a senior level.
- Related professional licensure is preferred but not required.
- Valid Nevada driver's license; ability to obtain and maintain eligibility for a Security Identification Display Area (SIDA) badge.

For the full job description, click here.

Salary and Benefits

The salary range for this position is $183,475 – $234,930. The starting salary will be dependent upon qualifications. RTAA offers a very competitive benefit package.

How To Apply

To apply online, click here.

Deadline for applications: Open Until Filled

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.

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