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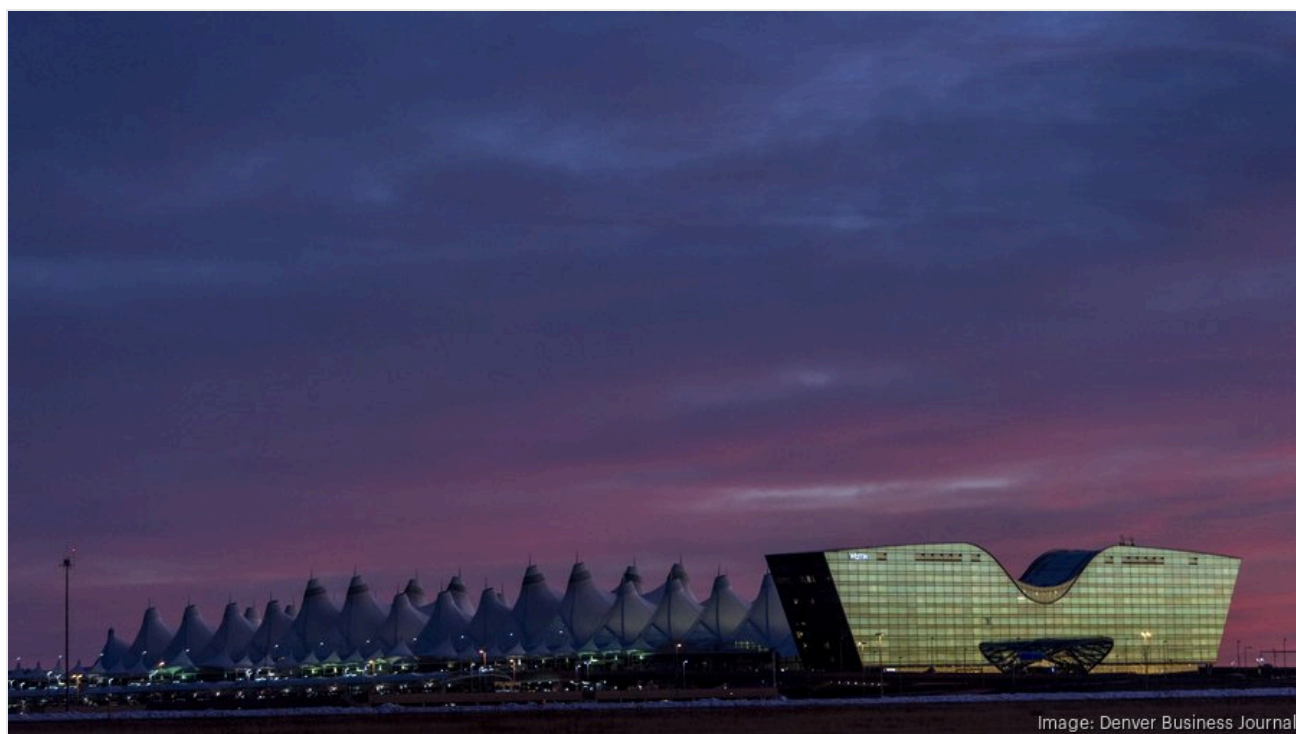
From the Denver Business Journal:

<https://www.bizjournals.com/denver/news/2026/06/30/denver-international-airport-interim-ceo-named.html>

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Denver International Airport names interim CEO as Phil Washington retires



Sunrise at Denver International Airport on January 11, 2022, in Denver.

SETH MCCONNELL | DENVER BUSINESS JOURNAL



By [Lincoln Roch](#) – Intern, Denver Business Journal
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Story Highlights

- Dave LaPorte will become interim CEO of Denver International Airport on Aug. 3.
- Current CEO Phil Washington retires Aug. 1 after leading major airport expansions.
- The airport faces several major projects including Great Hall completion and rental car facility construction.

A longtime leader at Denver International Airport will temporarily become its top executive when current CEO Phil Washington retires in August. On Tuesday, Mayor Mike Johnston named airport Chief Operating Officer Dave LaPorte as interim CEO effective Aug. 3.

Washington [announced his decision to retire](#) earlier this month. His last day will be Aug. 1.

LaPorte came to DIA in 2012, serving as senior vice president of airport infrastructure management, senior vice president of airport operations and deputy COO before being named to his current position in 2024. Prior to DIA, he spent 19 years at [Southwest Airlines](#). As the Denver station manager, he oversaw the airline's growth from 13 flights a day out of DIA in 2005 to 175 daily in 2012.

As interim CEO for the airport, LaPorte will oversee airport operations and strategic and workforce initiatives, according to a Tuesday news release. DIA has several major projects on the horizon, including the completion of the Great Hall project, [construction of a new consolidated rental car facility](#) and the [conversion of existing baggage transport tunnels](#) into passenger walkways.

"It's vital that an experienced, steady leader guide the organization during this transition period," Mayor Mike Johnston said. "I am confident he will lead the airport successfully during the interim."

He'll take the reins as DIA, one of the world's busiest airports, faces some turbulence with city leaders. In March, the airport's general counsel [filed a lawsuit against the city](#), alleging he had been retaliated against for warning city officials of potential financial and legal consequences from the Park Hill Golf Course land swap and the rejection of a contract with Key Lime Air by the city council over the Centennial-based airline's links to deportations.

Washington was appointed to the top job at DIA in 2021 by former Mayor Michael Hancock. He had previously led the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the Denver-area's Regional Transportation District. He oversaw major expansions of both agencies' transit networks.

The airport reached several milestones on construction projects under Washington. He led DIA during its completion of [phase one of the Great Hall project](#), [the expansion of multiple concourses](#) and the [overhaul of the airport's security screening system](#).

One of his signature achievements, according to the airport, was the recent opening of an [on-site workforce training center](#) with a DEI focus.

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Denver's most popular airlines by passengers in 2025

Passengers - January through December 2025

Rank	Prior Rank	Business name
1	1	United Airlines
2	2	Southwest Airlines Co.
3	3	Frontier Group Holding Inc.
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