Meisam Esmaeilzadeh, P.Eng, PMP®, PMI-SCP™

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Strategic Project Director with 20+ years of leadership in delivering complex, multi-billion-dollar public transit and infrastructure projects in Ontario and internationally. Expertise spans consultant and contractor roles, with a proven track record leading Progressive Design-Build (PDB), Alliance, and P3 projects for Metrolinx, TTC, and Infrastructure Ontario. Recognized for achieving target price outcomes, rigorous cost control, risk mitigation, and seamless project handover while building high-performing teams and maintaining strong stakeholder relationships in multi-disciplinary environments.

Professional Highlights

- Led delivery of $10B+ subway and rail transit programs as Project Director- Design and Construction, consistently achieving Target Price and ensuring profitability under PDB and Alliance models.
- Directed multimillion-dollar budgets with rigorous forecasting, monthly financial reviews, and profitability optimization.
- Established project governance, KPI frameworks, performance reporting, and risk management systems (QCRA/QSRA) that drove accountability and continuous improvement.
- Served as primary client interface with Metrolinx and government agencies, effectively managing escalations, claims, disputes, and variations.
- Championed health, safety, and environmental (HSE) excellence, embedding a strong safety culture and contributing to zero-incident performance.
- Mentored and developed project managers and site leaders through coaching, performance management, and professional growth initiatives.
- Coordinated multidisciplinary teams across design, procurement, construction, and commissioning, handover phases for major transit initiatives.

Employment Experience

SYSTRA Canada, Toronto/Canada

Project Director, Jan.2024 to Present

Design & Construction Program Director, Jan.2023 to Jan.2024

Scarborough Subway Extension ($10.2B) & Yonge North Subway Extension ($5.6B) – Metrolinx Project Delivery Partner

- Led successful execution of Progressive Design-Build (PDB) delivery package, achieving Target Price through planning, procurement, construction, and handover while meeting budget, schedule, safety, and quality standards.
- Managed multimillion-dollar budgets, resource allocation, and monthly financial reviews to optimize profitability and maintain strict project constraints.
- Acted as primary escalation point for Metrolinx, resolving claims, disputes, and variations to sustain project momentum and mitigate risks.
- Directed constructability reviews, risk mitigation strategies, and contractor integration, optimizing sequencing and buildability across all phases.
- Developed KPI frameworks and performance measurement systems that drove long-term process improvements and operational excellence.
- Embedded robust safety protocols into contracts and operations, promoting a zero-incident culture.
- SYSTRA represented a joint venture, developing annual budgets, resource plans, KPIs, and commercial strategies.

Jacobs Engineering Group, Toronto/Canada

Senior Project Manager, 2020 to 2023

Ontario Line Subway Program ($27B) – Metrolinx Project Delivery Team (15.6 km, 15 stations)

- Led Project Delivery Team on one of Canada's largest transit projects, ensuring successful execution from conception to commissioning within scope, budget, schedule, and quality requirements.
- Implemented lifecycle risk monitoring and mitigation strategies (QCRA/QSRA), contributing to effective budget forecasting and milestone achievement.
- Managed RFP/RFI/RFQ processes and procurement activities, delivering competitive and fully compliant proposals.
- Built and maintained strong relationships with Metrolinx and key stakeholders, proactively managing expectations and minimizing disruptions.
- Supported tendering, interface management, and performance tracking, helping reduce schedule slippage and project risks.
- Directed performance management for direct reports, including objective setting, coaching, and annual performance reviews.

Jacobs Engineering Group, Toronto/Canada

Senior Project Manager/Interface Manager, 2020 to 2021

Union Station Rail Corridor, Electrification and Ontario Line Project

- Developed and implemented strategic procurement plans incorporating Alliance, PDB, and DBB delivery models.
- Led constructability, risk, schedule, cost and staging reviews with senior executive stakeholder engagement.

AECOM Canada Consulting Engineer, Toronto/Canada

Senior Design/Construction Compliance Manager, 2018 to 2020

Finch West Light Rail Transit (FWLRT – P3 Project, $2.5B) – Metrolinx Project Delivery Team

- Championed project-wide health, safety, and environmental programs, demonstrating strong HSE leadership.
- Managed multiple workstreams (Track/Guideway, Civil, Facilities, Systems) and geographic managers to ensure integrated delivery.
- Led contractor negotiations, resolving scope changes, claims, and schedule impacts while maintaining cost and schedule alignment.
- Oversaw risk management, contract compliance, claims review, and dispute resolution, optimizing workflows and efficiency.
- Provided strategic client engagement with Metrolinx, TTC, utilities, and Infrastructure Ontario through senior-level meetings and presentations.
- Delivered constructability, phasing, and operational recommendations during planning and design phases.

AECOM Canada Consulting Engineer, Toronto/Canada

Design/Construction Manager, 2011 to 2018

Toronto York Spadina Subway Extension (TYSSE, $3.18B, 8.6 km, 6 stations) – TTC Project Delivery Team

- Led project team through full lifecycle (planning, execution, and closeout), ensuring alignment with scope, schedule, budget, and contractual requirements.
- Coordinated with contractors, York Region, City of Toronto, Vaughan, and utilities to deliver work to specification and regulatory standards (including Ontario Building Code).
- Reviewed submittals, RFIs, CORs, and change orders, providing timely technical feedback on materials, claims, and delays.
- Collaborated with tunnel technical leaders to optimize design concepts and construction methodologies.

Dena Rahsaz Construction Company, Astana/ Kazakhstan,

Engineer Project Manager, 2008-2011

35 km Six-Lane Road and Tunnel Project ($2B) – Kazakhstan Ministry of Transportation

- Provided technical oversight for underground works, contributing to on-time and on-budget project completion.
- Led coordination of the underground segment, including staff supervision, schedule monitoring, and quality program implementation.
- Prepared RFQ documentation and participated in stakeholder design review meetings.

B.S.M Construction Company,

Tehran Subway construction

Tunnel and Subway Station Engineer, 2005-2008

Subway tunnel Project ($400 million)

- Supervised day-to-day tunnelling operations, including rock support installation (shotcrete, rock bolts, steel sets).
- Conducted task hazard analyses, developed work plans, and supported emergency evacuation procedures for tunnel safety.
- Monitored engineering compliance, quality control, and cost efficiency between design and construction phases.

Education

Moscow Technical Road and Transportation University, Russia (1999-2005)

- Civil Engineering – Bridge and Transportation Tunnel

Professional Development

Professional Associations

- Member of Ontario Professional Engineering (PEO) – P.Eng
- Member of Project Management Institution (PMI)
  - PMP®
  - PMI-SCP™
- Canadian Tunnelling Association, 2005
- Member of the Russian Union of Scientific and Engineering Associations

Training and Certificate:

- Construction of bridge and Tunnel (NATM, SEM)
- Construction Performance & Materials Management Certificate -PMI
- Construction Execution Planning Certificate -PMI
- Construction Contract and Risk Management Certificate -PMI
- Construction Scope and Change Order Management Certificate -PMI
- Construction Interface Management Certificate -PMI
- Construction Technology & Innovation Certificate -PMI
- Financial Project Management, AECOM University
- Contract and Procurement, AECOM University
- Financial Project Management, AECOM University
- 10 hr.- Construction Health and Safety - OSHA