



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Meet Elie Alshoufy, Civil Lead Engineer

How A “Foodie” Became An Engineer – Or Vice Versa!



This month's employee spotlight is on Elie Alshoufy, Civil Lead Engineer for VDOT's team at the HRBT Expansion Project. Elie oversees a team of engineers who review HRCP's design for the new roadways, helping ensure the contract requirements are satisfied while working on a tight schedule to keep HRCP's fast-paced design moving forward.

Elie says he's happy to come to work every day because of the critical nature of his work, and the capable team he leads. He feels proud of the teamwork and collaboration in delivering the HRBT Expansion Project, and already looks forward to recognizing familiar elements when driving along the corridor once construction is complete. Being co-located in the same office with the design-builder allows clarifying questions in real time to help keep the reviews moving forward efficiently, so the designs can reach the final RFC stage – “Released for Construction” – and move from concept into reality.

Elie is a world traveler and completed his Civil Engineering studies at the Technion (Israel Institute of Technology). He admits, “I enjoyed math and still do, and to be honest it is the only thing I was good at in school! But I was coached early on and developed a logical and analytical way of thinking that helped me get through school and get to college. In college I chose engineering: it felt like the right choice for my skill set.” Elie is happy to coach and mentor his team as they face career-development decisions, and he believes HRBT is a great experience for younger engineers to be exposed to the scale and complexity of a true megaproject.

Elie is happily married and expecting twins at Christmas! “Our lives are about to completely transform. I already see the transformation happening in the house with all the baby stuff our families are buying! They are buying everything they can find and we don't have a registry yet,” says the proud father-to-be.

He and his wife enjoy traveling, exploring new places, cultures and traditions, and eating great food. “I am a big fan of finding good restaurants and good local food. I also like to enjoy this experience with friends sitting down for a nice meal. Some of our traveling focuses on food and restaurants in VA and across the US. For example, we traveled to Maine to enjoy nature and lobsters.”

When asked the question, “If I was not an engineer, I would be . . .,” Elie had this to say, “I would love to be in the military following my dad's steps. My dad is my hero and the best man I know. I wonder what type of military leader would I be, what strategies would I implement, how I would lead and act under very stressful situations? I have huge respect for all service men and women.”

The HRBT Expansion project team has huge respect for you, Elie Alshoufy - Civil Lead Engineer, world traveler, coach, mentor, foodie, and father-to-be!