Linesh (Lenny) Chinchankar, M.B.A.

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ABOUT

Results-driven Senior Finance Leader with 20+ years in FP&A, financial modeling, and business transformation — with a rare combination of finance depth and hands-on Agile Product Ownership. Leads enterprise FP&A functions and finance teams while serving as Product Owner for the planning platforms finance runs on, bridging finance, technology, and product across large, matrixed organizations including Verizon, Metro-North, and NJ Transit. Builds the KPI frameworks, business cases, and automated systems that turn complex data into executive decisions — and partners fluently with product and engineering teams to deliver them.

EXPERIENCE

VERIZON *| Basking Ridge, NJ*

Sr. Manager – Business Transformation Finance November 2024 – Present

- Developed Other Charges & Credits guardrail business case identifying $10M+ in potential savings, enabling proactive financial controls and executive-level decision support
- Conduct comprehensive variance analysis to surface financial risks and opportunities, translating complex data into actionable insights for senior leadership
- Develop and deliver executive-level presentations translating complex financial analyses and business cases into clear, compelling narratives for senior leadership decision-making
- Built automated workflows leveraging Knime, Google Workspace, and Gemini AI to eliminate manual tasks across the monthly close cycle, saving hours of effort per period
- Developed Google Apps Script automation to eliminate 2 days of manually repeated monthly tasks, freeing team capacity for higher-value financial analysis

Manager/Senior Manager – Corporate FP&A December 2022 – November 2024

- Served as Agile Product Owner for DCAT and capital planning platforms, owning the product roadmap, backlog prioritization, and release planning across the Corporate Capital Team and business partners
- Delivered 40+ DCAT enhancements via Capital Scrum Board, doubling implementation throughput and improving delivery speed by 100% through Agile prioritization with CSG and cross-functional stakeholders
- Advanced MEC timeline from WD12 to WD10 using Knime, accelerating the month-end close cycle by 2 days via direct GCP integration and BigQuery to eliminate manual data extraction; expanded automation models and dashboards across Knime, Qlik, and Exoinsight
- Developed Qlik Capital Budget Workflow serving 50+ users across 4 teams, resolving PI2 audit finding and enabling weekly budget migrations vs. monthly — reducing approval friction during critical month-end close periods
- Developed Qlik Capital Hierarchy Workflow/HCVT ensuring structured change management through communication and commitment protocols across digital enablement rollout; led training and onboarding of Capital Corp Team, Business Units & FPAS partners

Manager – FP&A Center of Excellence (COE)/FPAS December 2018 – December 2022

- Developed the first-ever Qlik Planning Dashboard for FP&A COE serving 20+ users, integrating actuals from PMR with Hyperion Planning data — saving each user 5+ hours per month during close
- Revamped change control process to deliver full transparency and accountability across planning and reporting teams; aligned stakeholders and eliminated ambiguity in system change governance
- Led Hyperion Planning enhancements to support VZ2.0 company-wide transformation, including Long-Range Planning (LRP) cycle requirements, restructuring enterprise reporting from a wireless/wireline model to a Consumer and Business operating structure
- Established Agile UAT framework leveraging JIRA for full-cycle user acceptance testing; created Knime workflows to automate validation of planning data in Essbase reporting cubes

SKILLS

PRODUCT & AGILE DELIVERY

Agile Product Owner | Product Roadmap | Backlog Prioritization | Release Planning | Scrum | SDLC | JIRA | HP ALM | QTEST | Stakeholder Management | Data Governance

DIGITAL FINANCE & ANALYTICS

Oracle EPM | QLIK | Tableau | Knime | Alteryx | Essbase | SmartView | Gemini AI | Generative AI | Google Workspace | Google Apps Script | GCP | BigQuery | SQL

FINANCIAL PLANNING & REPORTING

Oracle DCAT | Oracle Hyperion Planning | Anaplan | FP&A | Variance Analysis | Business Case Development | Financial Modeling | P&L Management | Strategic Planning | KPI Development | Long-Range Planning (LRP) | Capital Planning | Budget Management | System Implementation | Requirements Gathering | Digital Enablement | Training & Onboarding | Forecasting | Hierarchy Management | UAT | Data Reconciliation | Operating Model Design | Headcount Planning | People Management

MICROSOFT SUITE

Word | Excel | PowerPoint | Access

HONORS & AWARDS

Metrics Reporting Award | QLIK Capital Hierarchy Workflow Application Project Nomination | Shadow to Grow Participant | Leading Rating Consecutive Years | Oracle Hyperion Planning Launch Nomination

EDUCATION

Rutgers Business School

M.B.A. | Finance | May 2008

New Jersey Institute of Technology

B.S. | Management & Information Systems | August 2002

CERTIFICATIONS

PMP Candidate (Expected 2026)

Google AI Essentials Certificate (2025)

CLIFTONSTRENGTHS

Achiever | Analytical | Arranger | Communication | Consistency | Focus | Includer | Positivity | Self-Assurance | Woo

INTERESTS

Traveling | Tennis | Football | Investing | Self-Improvement

Consultant – FP&A Center of Excellence (COE) August 2017 – December 2018

- Identified and implemented business process and systems improvements for Planning & Forecasting in partnership with the Finance Systems IT Team, including support for new acquisition integrations
- Proactively resolved cross-functional conflicts while gathering business, functional, and data requirements for Hyperion Planning; delivered end-user training on newly implemented processes and systems

METRO-NORTH RAILROAD *| New York, NY*

Assistant Director, Financial Planning & Analysis 2014 – 2017

- Led team of 2 managing operating expenses and cash requirements for a $1.3B annual operating budget, including monthly, quarterly, and annual budget and forecast development with headcount planning
- Delivered monthly and YTD actual vs. plan variance analysis, providing leadership with clear financial reporting and actionable insights on expense performance
- Restructured capital program database using Hyperion SmartView, MS Access, and Excel — improving visibility, transparency, and reporting structure, saving 8+ hours per month during close

NJ TRANSIT *| Newark, NJ*

Director, Capital Programming & Reconciliation 2010 – 2014

- Led team of 8 as member of Senior Executive Staff, overseeing 500+ projects across an $8B 5-year capital program — enabling 25% more capital spending and completion of 10 additional projects vs. prior process
- Realigned team to assembly-line model, increasing approval throughput by 25%; produced and presented Critical Capital Project review reports directly to the Executive Director
- Coordinated with government agencies to secure multi-source funding across technology, infrastructure, facilities, and rolling stock programs; analyzed competing projects using ROI prioritization strategy

Assistant Director, Capital Programming & Reconciliation 2009 – 2010

- Managed funds administration and tracking of the full capital program; recommended creative grant budget revisions, NJDOT TTF transfers, and expense movements to maximize active projects

Manager, Capital Programming Systems | System Administrator 2003 – 2009

- Managed and reported on $1.2B+ annual capital budget; structured and organized capital program database to provide clarity, transparency, and reporting visibility to department leadership