



NEWS

From the Office of the New York State Inspector General
Joseph Fisch

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Inspector General Finds State Supervisors Skipped Work While Purportedly On the Road to Job Sites *Former Bridge Authority Exec Quit During IG Probe*

Three state employees on the road to official sites skipped work to shop, drink at pubs or go home hours early, according to a series of three reports issued today by Inspector General Joseph Fisch.

The Inspector General found ([view report](#)) that former NYS Bridge Authority Deputy Executive Director James J. Bresnan routinely left work around noon in his state-assigned vehicle, ostensibly to visit one or more of five bridges he oversaw for the Bridge Authority. Instead, Bresnan, 73, of New Windsor, N.Y., visited pubs and restaurants or simply went home, the report concludes. In one six-week period, Bresnan claimed 18 trips to the Newburgh-Beacon and Bear Mountain bridges, though his access card revealed that he visited just one bridge on only one occasion. Bresnan retired within days of being interviewed by the Inspector General, and therefore cannot face discipline for alleged violations of agency policy.

“Employees whose state job requires them to travel will not be permitted to abuse the state’s trust,” Inspector General Joseph Fisch said. “New York can ill afford individuals who fleece the state by exploiting their travel obligations.”

In two other cases, involving New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) engineers, the employees claimed multiple work hours allegedly working on the road when they were either shopping or at home.

1. DOT Transportation Maintenance Engineer 1/Regional Bridge Maintenance Supervisor Jonathon Phillips, 52, of Cortland, N.Y., falsely reported on several occasions that he was on the road supervising four bridge crews when he went home early. ([View report](#))
2. DOT Engineer-in-Charge Robert Arena, 50, of Walkill, N.Y., claimed unearned overtime and submitted false time records on numerous instances after taking personal detours to shop at Poughkeepsie's Galleria Mall or go home. ([View report](#)) Arena also falsely claimed to have worked one Memorial Day when, in fact, no construction activities had taken place that day.

Both men face disciplinary action.

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