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**Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman Releases Audit of
Nassau County Bridge Authority**

Potential Cashless Tolling Investments Demonstrate Modernization Opportunities at the Bridge

MINEOLA, NY - Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman released the results of an audit of the Nassau County Bridge Authority (NCBA). The audit was conducted in part to review the efficiencies for toll operations; the methods used for the collection, deposit, and recording of revenues; and the possible utilization of automation in such operations and processes. The time period covered by the review was January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017.

Through the duration of the audit, the Bridge Authority and its team have maintained constant communication with the Comptroller's Office. As a result, the audit has provided a roadmap of recommendations for modernization, including automation and potential cashless tolling to improve operations at the Atlantic Beach Bridge.

“Audits like this provide important guidance and recommendations to improve operations, strengthen internal controls, and ensure fairness and efficiency for residents and taxpayers,” said **Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman**. “It is important that the NCBA operate effectively to maximize value and minimize the potential for waste.”

The audit's findings and recommendations focus on a need for modernization, such as the automation of toll collection functions, shifting away from paper-intensive processes, and outdated practices.

“I am very proud of the financial stewardship of the NCBA over the past 10-15 years, and as a result, we have had no toll increase in the last 15 years, decreased headcount, and increased bond ratings,” said **James J. Vilardi, Nassau County Bridge Authority Chairman**. “Our conversations with the Nassau County Comptroller's office will make a highly effective organization even better. Our collaborative and thoughtful conversations will only serve to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our organization.”

The NCBA Board Chairman acknowledged that the audit guided the Board and staff to make constructive amendments to policy and internal procedures. Specifically, the NCBA:

- Improved internal controls in the commercial decal program.
- Eliminated the use of script tickets (prepaid tickets used to cross in lieu of cash).
- Will consider replacing free passage for municipal vehicles with a Shared Services Agreement.
- Has begun testing new cashless tolling license plate readers.

“The Atlantic Beach Bridge is the only toll bridge in Nassau County. This process provided a real back-and-forth: our team asked tough questions and as a result, the Bridge Authority is taking steps to improve their operations,” said **Schnirman**. “The Comptroller’s Office looks forward to seeing that continued progress and doing our part to continue following up on this audit.”

The full audit is available to read at <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/audits>.

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