



**DOWNEAST
ACADIA**
REGIONAL TOURISM

RE: Local funding for the *Federal Highway Administration FY 2023 & FY 2024 National Scenic Byway*
Program Grant Application project titled: ***Schoodic National Scenic Byway Discovery & Recreation Hub***

Commissioner Bruce A. Van Note
State of Maine Department of Transportation
16 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0016

Dear Commissioner Van Note,

This project will create a byway discovery & recreation hub located at the existing Sorrento-Sullivan Recreation Center on Route 1 along the Schoodic National Scenic Byway. The proposed site improvements will mesh with nearby state scenic overlooks and existing recreation center site activities. This project will also illustrate how a regional approach to community and visitor activities housed in one location will provide focused and measurable recreational, social, equitable, and economic benefits.

The proposed project features include improved and additional parking areas, a regional transit bus stop, connections to nearby recreation areas, access to an ADA restroom in the existing building, an outdoor shade pavilion in conjunction with a bicycle repair hub and charging station, increased access to the site's recreation facilities, byway signage for wayfinding, local businesses, and interpretive exhibits as well as site amenities like benches, a pollinator learning garden, coastal outdoor art, granite block "discovery" play area, and another byway KIDS QUEST "Coastal Forests" themed exhibit and discovery trail in the wooded part of the property.

In a cooperative effort, the Town of Sullivan is joining local organizations in providing matching funds for the project. For its part, the Town of Sullivan is committing stockpiles of granite worth roughly \$40,000 to be used in varied ways on the project. In addition, the town of Sullivan will be the fiscal agent for all local matching funds committed to the project and work closely with the Maine Department of Transportation to complete the necessary agreements if the grant is awarded.

DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism (DART) is committed to aiding in the marketing and promotion of the Schoodic National Scenic Byway Discovery & Recreation Hub once initial infrastructure improvements have been accomplished. Projects like this are the driving force behind Maine tourism market adaptation and increasing visitor market value capture. We hope you will fund this project.

Sincerely,

Cecil Gardner, DownEast Acadia Regional Grant Manager

11/05/2024