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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

November 4, 2024

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 complement nearby state scenic overlooks, the existing recreation center site activities (local event center, library, historical society, and town recreation facilities), and the region's natural recreation resources.

The proposed project features include improved and additional parking areas, a regional transit bus stop, connections to nearby recreation areas, an outdoor shade pavilion in conjunction with a bicycle repair hub and charging station, increased access to the site's recreation facilities, improved landscaping along Route 1, and "Coastal Forests" themed exhibit as part of the award-winning byway KIDS QUEST which will include a discovery trail in the wooded part of the property.

In a cooperative effort, Frenchman Bay Conservancy is joining with the Town of Sullivan and many other local organizations in providing local matching funds for the project. For its part, Frenchman Bay Conservancy is committing \$5,000 to the project should it receive National Scenic Byway Program grant funding.

Looking forward, this project is vital toward improving the gateway to the Schoodic National Scenic Byway and the Schoodic Region where we have partnered for decades to protect wildlife habitat, scenic resources and recreational opportunities for visitors to the area and local members of the community.

Sincerely,

Aaron Dority
Executive Director