



**Hancock County  
Planning Commission**  
*a voluntary association of governments.*

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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

Dear Commissioner Van Note,

The Schoodic National Scenic Byway Discovery & Recreation Hub will be instrumental in furthering the promotion of and access to both the Schoodic National Scenic Byway and Downeast Maine. Standing alone, the project will provide recreational, social, equitable, and economic benefits to the region while greatly enhancing the visitor experience. Its location at the head of the Byway creates a gateway center that will not only attract people within the state and around the country, but also encourage them to extend their visits and explore all that the Byway and the Downeast Acadia Region has to offer.

Further, this project aligns with existing economic development, transportation and recreation goals & objectives established in the Town of Sullivan's comprehensive plan and the Byway's Corridor Management Plan. The entire Schoodic Region is in the process of updating their respective comprehensive plans, and in region-wide meetings these towns have each expressed by-in and support for this project. The Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC) has also been actively involved with the Byway since it was first established, and to this day attends monthly meetings, offers technical assistance and provides other coordination efforts to support the Byway and its role in Downeast Maine.

HCPC, like the Schoodic Byway, strives to improve the lifestyles of individuals and communities throughout the region, and recognizes the importance of tourism and physically experiencing what Hancock County has to offer. Proposed project features such as a pavilion, improved parking, wayfinding and interpretive signage, enhanced safety measures, other outdoor recreation improvements, and an addition to the Byway's award-winning KIDS QUEST project will have positive ripple effects throughout the county and beyond. HCPC is committed to continuing to help in developing the Schoodic National Scenic Byway Discovery & Recreation Hub.

Thank you for your support,

Averi Varney, Executive Director