



Strong Beginnings | Healthy Aging | Active and Healthy Environments | Healthy Food for All Substance Prevention and Recovery | Health Promotion and Management | Basic Needs | Health Equity

*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,

Healthy Acadia recognizes **Schoodic National Scenic Byway Discovery & Recreation Hub** in Sullivan as an important location between Ellsworth and Machias. We recently helped the Schoodic National Scenic Byway committee promote seven Kid's Quest on the TEACH ME Outside map for outdoor learning. We also partnered with Sullivan Recreation Committee and Age Friendly Sullivan to provide Winter Kids Snowshoe and Storybook Walk events.

The proposed project promotes healthy lifestyles for local communities with increased access to Sullivan recreation facilities, an outdoor pavilion with a bicycle repair hub and charging station, a pollinator learning garden, "discovery" play area, and a new byway KIDS QUEST "Coastal Forests" exhibit with a discovery trail into the woods. The site will offer full amenities for school groups learning and/or physical activity field trips as well as intergenerational activity.

Healthy Acadia values the development of **Schoodic National Scenic Byway Discovery & Recreation Hub**, a recreation and learning space for our local community and commits services of our staff valued up to \$5,000.

Our Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Coordinator working with local schools and community members may provide technical or administrative assistance on the project planning, development, and initiation. A HEAL Coordinator can offer programming such as storybook walks, snowshoeing, mindful walks, Bicycle Coalition of Maine bicycle safety education and bicycle rodeo or additional support at community events and meetings.

*Healthy Acadia's mission is to empower people and organizations to build healthy communities in Hancock and Washington counties, Maine. We work to address health challenges and make it possible for everyone to lead healthier lives. We are pleased to support **Schoodic National Scenic Byway Discovery & Recreation Hub**.*

Sincerely,

Katie Freedman
Community Health and Food Programs Director

Sandy Fortin
Healthy Eating and Active Living Coordinator

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