



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

RE: **Schoodic National Scenic Byway Discovery & Recreation Hub**, FHWA FY 2023-24  
National Scenic Byway Program Grant

November 5, 2024

Dear Commissioner Van Note,

The need for a convenient Hwy 1 location to inform visitors about the Schoodic area's outdoor recreation, attractions and businesses has been keenly felt by our members for a long time. The backbone of our economy is Tourism, which is largely focused on outdoor recreation. The solution is the visitor information center in the central pavilion of this proposed Discovery & Recreation Hub.

Most Schoodic area travelers come to visit Acadia National Park, but Route 3 and Mount Desert Island are choked with traffic. To continue to grow we must draw visitors to areas outside Bar Harbor. The Schoodic area actually has more conserved land, more preserved coastline, more trails, and more lakes than Acadia MDI.

The Discovery & Recreation Hub will connect visitors and locals to the bounty of outdoor recreation that Downeast Maine has to offer. It will lower the barriers to "*getting out there*" by showing how to start, who to ask, where to park and what to do. It will connect local businesses to eager customers and visitors to local organizations. It will boost hometown fitness and expand Maine's \$3.3 billion outdoor economy. Outdoor recreation has been a winner in Maine's recovery and growth, now accounting for 4% of the state's GDP and supporting 32,000 jobs.

This landmark location on Hwy 1 will be a key asset to fulfill our prime mission of marketing local businesses, for decades to come. With this letter we hereby commit to contribute \$5000 to the required local matching funds of this project.

Sincerely,

Allen Colebank  
SACC Board Member