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Sunrise County Economic Council

RE: 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 proposed Schoodic National Scenic Byway Discovery & Recreation Hub will establish a significant gateway center to welcome and introduce travelers to the Schoodic and Bold Coast regions of Downeast Maine. No other infrastructure exists in the area that achieves this critical service.

The proposed Hub is located at the western gateway of the Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway, and along the East Coast Greenway and US Bike Route 1. Development of infrastructure that supports bicyclists is critical to the ability of these bicycling routes to attract long-distance road cyclists to the region.

The Schoodic Hub supports travelers to the Schoodic National Scenic Byway as well as those traveling further east to the Bold Coast National Scenic Byway, which begins just 10 miles east of the Schoodic Byway along US Route 1. Proposed project features such as wayfinding and interpretive signage and visitor information will assist travelers in exploring a much larger region, ultimately extending economic contributions to communities further Downeast and furthering the long range goals of the entire region.



Crystal Hitchings, Director of Community Promotion and representative of the Bold Coast National Scenic Byway