

Town of Sullivan

Ray Weintraub – Town Manager

November 4, 2024



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

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***

Dear Commissioner Van Note,

The project aims to establish a discovery and recreation hub at the current Sorrento-Sullivan Recreation Center situated on Route 1, adjacent to the Schoodic National Scenic Byway. The proposed site improvements will mesh perfectly with nearby state scenic overlooks and existing recreation center site activities (local event center, library, historical society, and town recreation facilities). This project will show that a regional approach to community and visitor activities in one location can deliver the greatest benefits in recreation, social engagement, fairness, and economic growth.

The proposed project encompasses enhancements to existing parking facilities and the addition of new parking areas, the establishment of a regional transit bus stop, connections to adjacent recreational sites, and access to an ADA-compliant restroom within the existing structure. Additionally, the project aims to include an outdoor shade pavilion paired with a bicycle repair hub and charging station, improved access to the site's recreational amenities, wayfinding signage for byway navigation, recreational opportunities, local businesses, and interpretive exhibits. The plan also features site enhancements such as benches, a pollinator learning garden, coastal outdoor art, a granite block discovery play area, landscaping along Route 1, and another KIDS QUEST Coastal Forests themed exhibit along a discovery trail situated in the wooded section of the property.

The Town of Sullivan as a shared property owner, is collaborating with various local organizations to provide matching funds for the project, showcasing a strong commitment to community development. As part of this initiative, the Town is contributing stockpiles of granite valued at \$40,000, which will be utilized in multiple aspects of the project. Furthermore, the Town of Sullivan will serve as the fiscal agent for all local matching funds allocated to the project and will engage closely with the Maine Department of Transportation to finalize the necessary agreements contingent upon the grant's approval.

Moving forward, this project is crucial for enhancing the scenic byway and aligning with the Town of Sullivan's Comprehensive Plan. The vision is to expand this recreational facility significantly, marking a substantial stride in reconstructing a historic village center that safely connects public parks, waterfront access points, schools, and businesses without the need for motorized transport.

Sincerely,

Ray Weintraub

Sullivan Town Manager