



Town of Winter Harbor

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November 19, 2024

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

Dear Commissioner Van Note,

I am writing to express the Town of Winter Harbor's support for the Schoodic National Scenic Byway Discovery & Recreation Hub. This project will be instrumental in furthering the promotion of and access to both the Schoodic National Scenic Byway and Downeast Maine. It will provide recreational, social, and economic benefits to the region while greatly enhancing the visitor experience as they arrive in the Schoodic area. 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.

Winter Harbor has been working together with the other communities in the Schoodic Region under the facilitation of Hancock County Planning Commission (HCPC) to enhance public services for residents and visitors. While this project aligns with the Byway's Corridor Management Plan, towns in the Schoodic Region are in the process of updating their respective comprehensive plans, and in regional meetings these towns have expressed buy-in and support for this project. The Town of Winter Harbor has been involved and supportive of the Byway since it was first established and recognizes its importance in Downeast Maine.

The residents of Winter Harbor recognize the importance of tourism to our town and neighboring communities. Positive experiences that the visitors to the Schoodic Region and Hancock County area experience is very important to us. The proposed project that features a pavilion, improved recreation improvements and an addition to the Byway's award-winning KIDS QUEST project will have positive ripple effects through the county and beyond. The Town of Winter Harbor is committed to continuing to help in developing the Schoodic National Scenic Byway Discovery & Recreation Hub.

Respectfully,

Cathy J. Carruthers
Town Manager