



SOMERSET COUNTY

Tim Curtis - County Administrator

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November 21, 2024

The Honorable Peter Buttigieg, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Somerset County Commissioners, I am writing to you in support of the application project, Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway Project submitted by the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) to the Federal Highway Administration FY2023 & FY 2024 National Scenic Byway Program.

The project will create inviting visitor centers in two locations on the Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway (OCR), one of America's oldest scenic byways and located on a major Maine state highway to Quebec, Canada. County Government has a stake in the economic benefits that a byway can attract and the visitor experiences that can be enhanced by this project, we enthusiastically support the efforts of the OCR Board of Directors.

How do we invite people into our trail-friendly communities? How do we enhance sites on the byway that enhance our communities? Fortunately, the Board of Directors of the Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway have developed a proposal that attempts to address these two questions. Two locations, one in West Forks and one in The Forks form the basis of the FHWA funding proposal.

The C. E. Ball Field in West Forks will become a more inviting location for the communities to use and for visitors to enjoy and learn about the area. This location is the hub of the Forks Area Scenic Trail system with multimodal trails to access year-round.

The trailhead to the Forks Area Scenic Trails system located in The Forks is the Gateway to the heart of the byway. River access for boating and fishing, a trail for biking and walking along the Kennebec River, a family picnic/ play area, and kiosks to learn about the environment and the culture of the area are components of this project.

As the entirety of the Old Canada Road National Scenic Byway runs through Somerset County Maine, we are proud to join with other local organizations along the byway in supporting this project that gives us the opportunity to be intentional about how we invite people in.

Best Regards,

Tim Curtis
County Administrator

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District 2

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