



Project Summary 2005

FHWA National Scenic Byways Program

This application must be completed online at <http://www.bywaysonline.org/grants/>, and submitted electronically and in printed form.

Project No. SB-ME-2005-52516	Project Name Winter Harbor Scenic Enhancement Project	
State Submission Date December 30, 2004	Division Submission Date	State Priority

Project Category

Which category best describes the location of this project?

- Project associated with an All-American Road or a National Scenic Byway.
- Project along a State-designated scenic byway that is carried out to make the byway eligible for designation as an All-American Road or a National Scenic Byway.
- Project involving the planning, design, and development of a State scenic byways program.

Choose from the following categories of eligible work the type that best fits your project.

- State Programs
- Corridor Management
- Safety Improvements
- Byway Facilities
- Access to Recreation
- Resource Protection
- Interpretive Information
- Marketing

Is this an application for a seed grant?

- Yes
- No

Is this application a resubmission of an unfunded project from a previous year?

- Yes
- No

Project Location

States involved in project:

Maine (primary)

Project Location (continued)

Indicate the byway's regional location within the State. Reference prominent landmarks such as parallel major highways, natural features, counties, or large cities, that makes the byway(s) easy to locate in a road atlas.

The Schoodic byway begins 10 miles east of Ellsworth, Maine on Route 1 at the Hancock-Sullivan Bridge crossing Taunton Bay. The byway continues 8 miles east on Route 1, turning south on Route 186 to Winter Harbor. The byway follows the Acadia National Park Schoodic Loop Road returning to Route 186 and ending at the Village of Prospect Harbor in Gouldsboro, Maine. A map is available on our website www.schoodicbyway.org.

Briefly describe the project location(s) on the byway using references to route numbers, byway gateway communities, project location communities and landmarks so any reviewer can identify the project sites.

This project is located at the "flagpole" close to the village center of Winter Harbor. Route 186 and the Schoodic Byway turn left at the stop sign at this site. This site is a short walking distance from the Village Center of Winter Harbor and the Schoodic to Bar Harbor Ferry dock

Associated Byways

State	Byway Name
ME	Schoodic Scenic Byway
ME	Schoodic Scenic Byway

Is this project consistent with the Corridor Management Plan(s) for the byway(s) involved?

- Yes
 No

Congressional Districts

State	District	Representative
ME	2	Michaud, Michael H.

Abstract

Project Description

This project will contribute to a village revitalization effort in Winter Harbor through improving a scenic vista of the ocean. This project will also contribute to the creation of a public boat ramp. The only view of the ocean from the Schoodic Byway in the village area of Winter Harbor is currently obstructed by commercial signage, directional signage and utility poles and wires. Overhead wires also prevent safe launching of sailboats from this site. This project will assist in burying a short segment of utility wires, removing poles and redesigning signage to frame the vista rather than blocking it.

Byway Benefits

This project benefits the traveler by opening a view of the ocean from the Schoodic Byway. This site has a pleasant park bench from which visitors can view fishing boat activities in the Harbor. The Maine Department of Transportation and Town of Winter Harbor are embarking on a major effort to improve the road, public services and pedestrian access at this site. Scenic improvements will entice visitors to walk this section and "come closer". Funding is available for placement of an interpretive sign at this location telling our story about activities in a fishing village. This project also supports recreational access to a planned boat ramp at this site.

Narrative

Project Summary

This project supports village renewal for Winter Harbor by improving safety, aesthetics, recreation access and transportation corridors. This grant would help to finance the enhancement of a specific scenic vista in the village by burying approximately 600 feet of utility lines and redesigning directional and business signage. Moving cables underground will also increase access to a planned boat ramp located immediately west of the flagpole.

An annotated map and photograph are attached that illustrate the precise location of this project.

The Maine Department of Transportation and Town of Winter Harbor are embarking on a major effort to improve the road, public services and pedestrian access around this site. Townspeople voted to raise \$500,000 of local funds to match funding from the Transportation Enhancement Program and Maine Highway funding to renovate Route 186 and a section of Main Street to move drainage underground, build sidewalks connecting the village, school and scenic locations and provide additional on street parking. These funds, totalling over \$1 million are not designated for scenic improvements.

Byway support in this instance can help this project to achieve a notable aesthetic impact by removing unsightly utility lines from the viewshed. In addition to burying power lines, the town is interested in redesigning signage to reinforce the traditional New England village character of

Project Summary (continued)

this fishing community. This process will entail selecting a model for business signage, such as those employed in Freeport, Maine, and working with the business community to manufacture new signs. The existing composite sign is located at the flagpole and is visible in the attached photograph.

The Town of Winter Harbor recognized the importance of this effort in their recently adopted comprehensive plan.

"The downtown area offers several scenic views. The views from the area between the flagpole and the post office are particularly appealing."

"Natural features also shape the village area. These include the wetlands on both sides of Newman Street. The most important feature is the ocean. The appearance of the village could be further enhanced by increased tree planting."

This comprehensive plan recognizes the Schoodic Scenic Byway in numerous sections and includes the 2000 CMP Goals and Objective in an appendix. A recently adopted subdivision ordinance is noteworthy in that it too reinforces the towns commitment to protecting scenic corridors. Both the Comprehensive Plan and Subdivision Ordinance are viewable at www.hpcme.org/landuse/winterharbor/winterharborplan.htm.

The 2000 Schoodic Byway CMP also recognizes the challenge that overhead utility lines have posed for our byway. One objective of the plan states:

"The Utilities shall inform towns of significant changes in distribution networks, including location of poles, wires, transformers and other structures and work with CMC and planning boards to avoid construction within the identified scenic vistas. They will collaborate with the towns to identify opportunities for relocating infrastructure away from scenic areas, including future underground cabling through downtown areas."

and

"Develop strategies for reducing the impact of utilities poles and wires on scenic vistas throughout the byway."

This project will be coordinated by Roger Barto, Town Manager for Winter Harbor and a member of the Schoodic Byway Corridor Management Committee and Jim Fisher, Planner with the Hancock County Planning Commission and MDOT consultant.

Byway Traveler

Travelers will experience three benefits from this project.

Upon arrival in Winter Harbor, they will be greeted by a beautifully framed view of an active harbor with lobster fishing boats, recreational boats and a working waterfront. This will be a significant improvement over the current view which is obstructed by utilities and signage.

Second, scenic improvements will entice visitors to walk this section and "come closer". Funding is available for placement of an interpretive sign at this location telling our story about activities in a fishing village. Removal of obstructions in conjunction with a walking trail, bench and interpretive sign will encourage people to learn more about the area and visit other local venues.

Third, travelers that have boats will have an opportunity to use the boat ramp (high tide only) for small motor boats and sailboats, or to hand launch sea kayaks for off-shore adventures. Seasonal kayak rental and guide services are available in Winter Harbor and Gouldsboro.

Prior Projects

Describe the relationship of this project to previously funded with National Scenic Byways grant projects. In addition, discuss how the proposed work relates to any multi-year work plan byway leaders have developed.

This project is most closely connected with the funded project to create park-and-ride spaces in Winter Harbor (2001 ME). That project was delayed in order to coordinate Scenic Byway improvements with other transportation and community enhancement work in Winter Harbor. The waiting is over for Winter Harbor improvements, with some construction beginning next summer. The corridor management committee will work with the Town of Winter Harbor this winter in a master-planning effort to tie-together municipal and byway improvements.

Project Coordinator

Name Roger Barto		
Agency/Group Town of Winter Harbor	Title Town Manager	
E-mail Address winterharbor@downeast.net		
Phone (207) 963-2235	Fax (207) 963-2140	
Street Address P.O. Box 98		
City Winter Harbor	State ME	ZIP 04693

Work Plan

Milestone/Task	Start Date/ Duration	Responsible Party	Justification
Establish funding agreement with State	AAD*		
Detailed design for Burying Utilities	Jul 18, 2005 2 months	Jim Fisher, Hancock County Planning Commission	Preliminary plans and cost estimates have been prepared for this work. This project is essentially ready to go, but has been delayed in order to coordinate it with other elements in the village revitalization plan and to develop adequate funding. Jim Fisher will assist the Town of Winter Harbor and utilities to finalize plans and document steps to completion of the project.
Bury Utility Lines, Remove Unneeded Poles	Sep 05, 2005 1 month	Town of Winter Harbor	Power and communications work will be carried out by Bangor Hydro Electric, Verizon and cable access providers. The timing of this project will be coordinated with construction of shoulders and sidewalks along Route 186 and Main Street in Winter Harbor. It is critical that this project not fall behind road resurfacing, as that might result in a five year moratorium on work that would require trenching across the road.
Develop New Directional and Busines Signage Standards	Sep 05, 2005 3 months	Town of Winter Harbor	The Corridor Management Committee, Town of Winter Harbor and Hancock County Planning Commission will evaluate alternatives for design and placement of directional and business signs currently located in the Winter Harbor "flagpole" viewshed. Model standards will be proposed to the MDOT, Winter Harbor Planning Board and local Chamber of Commerce for comment and approval. This stage will lay the ground work for future signage construction and placement.

* AAD = Actual Award Date (estimated to be July 15, 2005)

Work Plan (continued)

Milestone/Task	Start Date/ Duration	Responsible Party	Justification
Construct New Signs	Nov 30, 2005 3 months	MDOT for Directional Signage, Chamber of Commerce for Business Signage	During late autumn and winter of 2005-2006 businesses will work with the Chamber of Commerce to replace the small off-premises signs currently located at the flag pole with newly designed signs. The signage structure may also be relocated slightly in order to improve the vista while not compromising signage visibility. MDOT will work with the Corridor Management Committee to print and locate signs in accordance with the signage plan and MDOT requirements.
Replace Directional and Business Signage	Apr 03, 2006 1 month	Town of Winter Harbor	When the ground thaws in the spring of 2006 new directional and business signage will be installed. This will also be a good time to place a new interpretive sign near to the flagpole, boat ramp and scenic viewing site.

* AAD = Actual Award Date (estimated to be July 15, 2005)

Budget

Cost Breakdown

Description	Total Cost	Requested	Match
Utilities work	\$168,800	\$68,800	\$100,000
Signage Construction	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$1,000
Totals	\$171,800	\$70,800	\$101,000

Matching Funds

Source	Type	Description	Amount
Winter Harbor Businesses	Materials	Replacement signs and Sign Structure	\$1,000
Town of Winter Harbor	Cash	Funds for construction work and burying utilities	\$100,000
Totals			\$101,000

Funding Allocation

Do the byways involved in the project cross any Federal Lands? (Check all that apply)

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- USDA Forest Service

If this project is selected for funding, please indicate your preference for carrying out the project (check one):

- FHWA allocates the funds for the project to the State DOT
- FHWA allocates the funds for the project to one of the Federal land management agencies marked above (provide contact information below)

Funding Allocation (continued)

Provide the contact information for the Federal land management agency if applicable:

Name		
Agency/Group	Title	
E-mail Address		
Phone	Fax	
Street Address		
City	State	ZIP

Application Checklist

The following statements are for informative purposes. Please read and check each statement.

- I understand that this is a reimbursement program - funds are not available up-front.
- I have reviewed and responded to the Complete Application statements as outlined in the Grants Guidance.
- I have been in touch with the State scenic byway coordinator and have responded to recommendations or requirements of the State.

Attachments

Be sure to attach the documents indicated below when submitting your printed application.

Name	Electronic File (optional)
<input type="checkbox"/> Scenic View of Winter Harbor	whvillage.jpg
<input type="checkbox"/> Map Indicating location of Schoodic Byway in Maine	schoodicbywaymainemap.JPG
<input type="checkbox"/> Map Indicating Location of Winter Harbor on Schoodic Byway	schoodicbywaymap.GIF
<input type="checkbox"/> Photograph illustrating impact of utilities on scenic vista	flagpolemidshotsmall.JPG
<input type="checkbox"/> Winter Harbor Viewshed Map	winterharborviewshedmap.JPG

Describe each of your attachments and how they support the project proposal, illustrate proposed activities, or document the site for an improvement.

Scenic View - Aerial view of Winter Harbor

Map indicating location of Schoodic Byway in Maine

Map indicating location of Winter Harbor on Schoodic Byway

Winter Harbor Viewshed Map - detailed location of project

Photograph illustrating impact - highlights current problem with utilities for viewshed and boat ramp access

Signatures

State Scenic Byways Agency

I certify that this application is complete and correct, and is eligible for National Scenic Byways funding.

Please print name:	Title
Signature	Date

Matching Funds Certification

I certify that the State's match for this project is available for use at the time of application.

Please print name: Robert LaRoche	Title Maine Department of Transportation
Signature	Date