

SNOWE, COLLINS ANNOUNCE \$618,562 FOR SCENIC BYWAY PLANNING AT MAINE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

November 21, 2008

Washington, D.C. -

U.S. Senators Olympia J. Snowe and Susan Collins (R-Maine) today announced that the U.S. Department of Transportation has awarded \$618,562 to the Bureau of Planning at the Maine Department of Transportation for scenic byway projects across the state.

"Maine's stunning natural beauty attracts visitors from around the world each year, providing a boost to the state economy and stressing the need for safe and accessible transportation infrastructure," Senators Snowe and Collins said. "These funds will help the Maine Department of Transportation efficiently plan for scenic byway projects and encourage travelers to visit our beautiful state."

The funding will be distributed as follows:

- \$78,000 for Schoodic National Scenic Byway project- These funds will be used to construct a visitor gateway on the eastern terminus of the Schoodic National Scenic Byway, improving visitor services and accessibility. The project will include improved visitor parking, granite benches, interpretive panels, and a weatherproof brochure dispenser.
- \$25,000 for Schoodic National Scenic Byway project- This grant will fund planning and administrative initiatives at the Schoodic National Scenic Byway.
- \$108,000 for improvements to Old Canada Road Scenic Byway- This grant will be used to improve three rest areas along the Old Canada Road Scenic Byway. The improvements include building a picnic table shelter, a restroom, a separation zone between commercial truck traffic and tourist traffic, as well gravel work.
- \$270,762 for Rangeley Lakes Scenic Byway project- These funds will build an overlook, parking area, and walking path for travelers at the renowned Height of Land on Route 17 on the Rangeley Lakes Scenic Byway.
- \$80,000 for Grindstone Scenic Byway Strategic Corridor Management Plan- This project aims to develop the Grindstone Scenic Byway as a tourist destination to promote its natural, historical, and cultural resources and boost the local economy.
- \$32,000 to develop a Corridor Management Plan for Grafton Notch Scenic Byway and Route 27 Scenic Byway- This grant will update the 2000 Corridor Management Plan for these two byways and will enhance services for travelers.
- \$24,000 for Pequawket Trail Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan- This project will develop the scenic byway by coordinating local communities and federal agencies to manage and preserve the area. It will also improve traveler services by providing information about the area and highlighting the corridor's cultural and natural points of interest.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) aims to improve safety, increase mobility in support of the nation's economy, protect human and natural environment, achieve organizational excellence, and support the national security strategy.