

Bold Coast Scenic Byway

**Nomination for Designation
as a National Scenic Byway**

2020



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SECTION 1: ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Location

The Bold Coast Scenic Byway skirts the easternmost edge of the United States along the Gulf of Maine and Bay of Fundy. The Bold Coast is home to Roosevelt/Campobello International Park and adjacent to Acadia National Park.

The Byway's western gateway is in Milbridge, Maine on US Route 1, 57 miles east of Bangor. The eastern gateway is in Calais at the International Avenue border crossing on US Route 1/ State Route 9, 95 miles east of Bangor. Calais borders the St. Croix River, which forms the international border with Canada. Directly across the river from Calais is St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada.

A spur route at the intersection of US Route 1 and State Route 190 East in Perry connects to Eastport, Maine. The Eastport begin/end point is in downtown Eastport at the terminus of State Route 190, near the visitor center and cruise ship disembarking points.

SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATION

Intrinsic Qualities (Recreation and History)

The Bold Coast Scenic Byway perches at the nation's raw and rugged easternmost edge, a place of wild beauty and a twelve-thousand-year history of human settlement, where travelers can explore diverse recreation opportunities within breathtaking natural settings.

Overview of Traveler Experience

Byway travelers can swim, fish, bike, hike, camp, paddle, and cruise their way through a landscape of sheer coastal cliffs created by molten lava then sheared off by grinding ice, inland lakes scoured by glaciers and filled with clear water, and unspoiled rivers supporting wild Atlantic salmon. Dark night are skies brilliant with stars. Deep mossy forests and high coastal ledges contain rare or unusual habitats and species. Multi-generational family farms produce wild blueberries; early fishing families still fish; history is celebrated and held sacred by descendants of early settlers.

The Scenic Byway's western gateway begins in Milbridge, at the head of Narraguagus Bay. Nearby Petit Manan Wildlife Refuge offers miles of cobble beaches and world-renowned bird-watching.

The Byway heads up the Narraguagus River to Cherryfield. The entire downtown is a National Historic District with ornate 19th century homes built from the wealth of ship builders, sea captains, and barons of the lumber and wild blueberry industries.

Jonesport and Beals are hard-driving lobstering towns populated by direct descendants of original town

founders. Three stops along the Downeast Fisheries Trail allow visitors to connect with the region's deep-rooted history. Great Wass Island Preserve hiking trail traverse a rocky beach with gigantic granite promontories and endless ocean views.

Three rivers converge at Machias Bay, once epicenter of a prolific lumber industry. Battle of the Margareta, first naval battle of the American Revolution, occurred here. Downtown Machias is convening point for a network of public conservation lands with remnants from log drives, railroads, maritime transport, and salt-hay farms.

The Scenic Byway from Cutler to Lubec traverses the boldest section of the nation's eastern seaboard, with thousands of acres of conservation land and public access to trails atop cliffs overlooking Bay of Fundy, where the world's highest tides begin.

The nation's first sunrise lights up the red and white striped lighthouse at West Quoddy Head State Park, easternmost point of the continental USA. The Park's hiking trails traverse sheer granite ledges with expansive views across the Canadian Maritimes and world-class birdwatching.

Downtown Lubec and McCurdy's Smokehouse Museum are historical mecca to the once prolific herring industry. Lost Fisherman's Memorial park pays homage to mariners lost at sea. Lubec provides mainland access to Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada, with miles of biking trails and beaches at Roosevelt-Campobello International Park, where Franklin D. and Eleanor Roosevelt had a beloved summer home.

Cobscook Bay between Lubec and Eastport is a wonderland of public conservation lands including islands, inlets, mainland forests, and cobble beaches with numerous access points for hiking, biking, paddling, wildlife watching, and more.

Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge provides hiking and biking trails and world-renowned bird watching. Cobscook and Passamaquoddy Bays are home of the Passamaquoddy, original Bold Coast inhabitants. Wabanaki Cultural Museum in Sipyak interprets historical stories of the Passamaquoddy.

Visitors to Eastport's seaside historic district can watch fishermen at their trade, feast on fresh-caught lobster as whales breach offshore, peruse shops featuring Bold Coast artisans, and discover the nation's oldest ship chandlery and only remaining traditional stone ground mustard producer.

Saint Croix Island National Historic Site commemorates the earliest French settlement in "l'Acadie". Calais is gateway to multi-day wilderness paddling and camping trips on the St. Croix International Waterway, considered one of the most unspoiled recreational river corridors in the Northeast.

Three on-road bicycling routes intersect at the Calais waterfront walkway. Calais is just across the St. Croix River from Saint Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada and scenic drives along New Brunswick's coastline and river corridors.

Regional & National Significance

The Bold Coast Scenic Byway connects travelers with the nation's last vestige of a natural resource-based maritime culture, where turning tides and changing seasons dictate daily survival and people have influenced the nation's formation since glaciers receded. Today, the Scenic Byway connects a network of

public conservation lands abundant with natural resources, coastal and riverine villages with well-preserved historic districts and working waterfronts, and the people that inhabit, value, and depend upon these landscapes. Scenic Byway travelers can stretch their legs on trails traversing bold granite coastlines shape by glaciers, view the island where European explorers including Samuel Champlain first settled, visit the site of the first naval battle of the American Revolution, and paddle rivers that once transported native Americans, European explorers, and the “King’s pines”.

SECTION 3: ROUTE INFORMATION

Total byway length (in miles): 147 miles.

Route Description

Start: Bold Coast Scenic Byway western gateway in Milbridge, traveling toward the eastern gateway in Calais.

The Bold Coast Scenic Byway begins on US Route 1 at the western edge of downtown Milbridge (44.530 N - 67.886 W). Travel through historic downtown Cherryfield (44.597 N -67.924 W) to Columbia Falls. Turn south (right) (44.649N -67.707 W) onto State Route 187 toward the western edge of downtown Jonesport (44.529 N -67.613); continue through on Route 187 which reconnects with US Route 1 in Jonesboro (44.649 N -67.598 W).

Turn east (right) on US Route 1 and travel to downtown Machias (44.719 N -67.451 W). Continue on Route 1 to East Machias and turn south (right) onto State Route 191 toward Cutler (44.735 N -67.392 W). Continue on Route 191 to the trails at Cutler Coast (44.686 N 67.173 W) and Bog Brook (44.732 N - W) preserves.

At the intersection of State Routes 191 and 189 (44.814 N -67.069 W), turn east (right) toward downtown Lubec and the International Bridge (44.862 N -66.984 W).

Turn east (right) before entering downtown Lubec at the intersection of Route 189 and South Lubec Road (44.848 N -67.000 W) for a spur route to West Quoddy Head State Park (44.815 N -66.950 W). Return to Route 189 and turn east (right) into downtown Lubec.

With a passport, cross the International Bridge to Campobello Island, New Brunswick, Canada for hiking and biking trails along the Bay of Fundy in Roosevelt/Campobello International Park (44.874 N -66.957 W).

From Lubec, travel west along State Route 189 toward Whiting and reconnect with US Route 1 (44.790 N - 67.175 W) in Whiting. Turn north (right) on US Route 1 and travel along Cobscook Bay through the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge in Edmunds (44.848N, -67.1696W) and Pembroke to Perry.

At the intersection of US Route 1 with State Route 190 (44.970 N -67.075 W), turn south (right) and travel through Sipyak (Pleasant Point), across the causeways of Moose Island, and into downtown Eastport (44.906 N -66.985 W). Follow signs to Shackford Head State Park just west of downtown (44.905 N -67.012 W). From Eastport, retrace your steps along State Route 190 north back to its intersection with US Route 1 in Perry. Turn north (right) onto US Route 1 along Passamaquoddy Bay. St. Croix Island International

Historic Site (45.123 N -67.147 W) is on the outskirts of downtown Calais and the Calais Waterfront Walkway (45.188 N -67.278 W) at the St. Croix River downtown border crossing with St. Stephen, New Brunswick. From this point, turn west (left) at the traffic light where US Route 1 and State Route 9 merge. Travel out of downtown Calais along Routes 1 and 9 to the traffic circle where the international border crossing enters Maine at the Bold Coast Scenic Byway's eastern gateway (45.161 N -67.290 W).

SECTION 4: ROUTE CONDITIONS

Vehicle, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Accommodations

The Byway route is two-lane, paved State-owned or State-aid roads. Large sections of US Route 1 have been rebuilt in the past 2 years. Route 1 between Milbridge and Cherryfield is scheduled to be rebuilt within the next 2 years. Most sections of US Route 1 include sufficient paved and/or gravel shoulder for a passenger vehicle or motorcycle to safely pull off the road if necessary. Boat landings, parks, trailheads, and businesses spread all along the route also offer safe places for motorized vehicles to pull off. In general, the area sees relatively low traffic, although Route 1 is a main artery for trucking seafood and other products to commercial markets. State aid routes off of Route 1 are narrower and more winding, but with lower vehicle traffic and speed limits, and more unofficial scenic pull outs.

The Bold Coast Scenic Byway includes sections of three mapped, signed bicycling routes: East Coast Greenway, US Bike Route 1, Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway and Cobscook Shores. Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway takes riders off the main Byway stem onto less-traveled routes along the Bold Coast from Milbridge to Calais (it scoops through Winter Harbor and the Schoodic section of Acadia National Park before entering Milbridge). Running through the middle of the Bold Coast region is the Down East Sunrise Trail, an 87-mile gravel multi-use trail, the easternmost and longest off-road segment of East Coast Greenway. Public bicycle repair stations are located in Milbridge, Machias, and Calais. Many small businesses are equipped with basic tire patch kits; a community program is building public bike services including repair, sales, and bike shares.

Larger downtowns include sidewalks and crosswalks; ADA accommodations vary. Smaller villages without sidewalks receive little traffic, making streets multi-use friendly.

The Bold Coast driving route easily accommodates conventional tour busses. Several businesses along the route purposefully invite tour busses to stop and enjoy their offerings. Milbridge, Machias, Lubec, Eastport, and Calais are particularly suited to accommodate busses. Machias and Calais are best equipped with lodging and restaurants to accommodate a tour group overnight. Eastport welcomes several smaller cruises ships each year, providing opportunity for operators to offer land tours to other locations along the Scenic Byway.

Travel Restrictions

Many museums, galleries, restaurants, information centers, and small businesses are closed during the period from November to June, although more retailers are opening in April or May and staying open through Christmas as the amount of visitation during shoulder season has increased.

Seasons

The Bold Coast Scenic Byway is nationally significant for its scenic beauty and outdoor recreation. Both attributes exist year-round, but the most enjoyable time to travel the Byway is from May through October. During this time foliage brings lushness to the views; harbors bustle with fishermen; warmth and sunshine invite one outside to play on the water; and birds, whales, and other critters are most active.

Bold Coast's busiest time is July and August. Businesses report strong customer numbers; businesses are fully stocked with wares; cultural events or festivals occur in towns all across the region every night of the week; and seasonal workers add extra traffic. During July and August, it can take several minutes to make a left turn in downtown Machias, which has no streetlights or flashing beacons.

Some trail head parking lots are filled. Wild blueberry farmers sometimes drive enormous tractors very slowly down the main road, and lobster boats are trucked to put-in to the sea; safe passing lanes are scarce. The region mainly experiences "crowds" at Eastport's Pirate Festival, the Fundy International Marathon, and the Machias Wild Blueberry Festival. Restaurants never have wait times. The Bold Coast is the perfect place to escape crowds – you'll always find solitude and quiet, even along a trail whose parking lot is full.

Safety

The Bold Coast Scenic Byway is 147 miles long, and road treatments and ADA accommodations vary widely. Many of the State-aid roads have posted speed limits under 50 mph. Within downtowns and villages, speed limits are 25 mph. US Route 1 includes sections with speeds at 55 mph. Downtowns have adequate street lighting for pedestrians, and roadway intersections typically have streetlights to help make the turn more visible. Guard rails are in place on steep banks along the route as needed. Most towns have public works departments that sweep gravel and repaint crosswalks in springtime. Calais is the only community with stop lights – other locations do not currently need them. Community members are well aware of any unsafe conditions and continue to work with their municipal leaders to correct such problems.

SECTION 5: TRAVELER EXPERIENCE

Getting to the Byway

Location	Distance	Average Drive Time
Bangor, Maine to Milbridge, Maine	57 miles	1.25 hrs
St. John, New Brunswick, CA to Calais, Maine	71 miles	1.25 hrs
Bar Harbor, Maine to Milbridge	47 miles	1 hour
Roosevelt/Campobello International Park to Lubec, Maine	1.5 miles	10 minutes
Schoodic National Scenic Byway to Milbridge	20 miles	15 minutes

Schooner Gallery, Milbridge May – October, daily
Information, restrooms, Wi-Fi, Gallery/gift shop w/regional artists.

Machias Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Machias May – October, Wednesday through Friday
Information, restrooms, Wi-Fi; bicycle repair station. Located in an historic train car along the
Down East Sunrise Trail & East Coast Greenway, adjacent to Middle River boat launches and Middle
River Park, kayak rentals, and street vendors.

Lubec Visitor Information, Lubec June – September
Information, restrooms

Eastport Area Chamber of Commerce, Eastport May – October
Information, restrooms, Wi-Fi; adjacent to Coast Guard and cruise ship docks.

St. Croix Valley Chamber of Commerce & State of Maine Visitor Information Center, Calais Year round,
open daily
Information, rest rooms, Wi-Fi; bicycle repair & EV charging and bicycle repair stations
Co-located w/Wabanaki Cultural Center; Adjacent to East Coast Greenway & Bold Coast Scenic
Bikeway; adjacent to public and EV charging station; walking distance across river to St. Stephen,
New Brunswick, Canada

Gaps

The Byway does not include any sections with services gaps of 50 miles or more. Basic traveler services like fuel, restrooms, and convenience foods, are generally not more than 5- 15 miles apart. Larger service centers are 25-35 miles apart.

Alternative Fuel Corridors, as defined under [FHWA's Alternative Fuels Corridor Program](#)

The Bold Coast Scenic Byway does not contain any designated FHWA Alternative Fuel Corridors. However, within the past 2 years 5 communities directly on the Byway, another 5 in communities just beyond the Byway, and another 9 in the greater DownEast Acadia region have installed electric vehicle charging stations. Byway communities with EV stations include Milbridge, Machias, Lubec, Eastport, and Calais. Each of these are gateway and/or key service communities. Additionally, public bicycle repair stations are located in Milbridge, Machias, Eastport, and Calais to serve the growing number of touring cyclists along the Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway, East Coast Greenway, and US Bike Route 1.

Wayfinding

Bold Coast Scenic Byway route signs exist between Milbridge and Eastport. Six interpretive- panel style maps on granite posts exist at key scenic areas and gateway communities along the Byway in Cherryfield, Jonesboro, Jonesport, Machias, Lubec, and Eastport. Paper maps and brochures of the DownEast Acadia region include the Bold Coast Scenic Byway; these are available at Chambers of Commerce, businesses, and Visitor Information centers along the route, and at all Maine state visitor centers.

URLs

BoldCoastScenicByway.com, DiscoverBoldCoast.com, and BoldCoastScenicBikeway.com direct visitors to the Bold Coast region website. The Bold Coast maintains a presence on its Facebook and Instagram pages.

DownEastAcadia.com and VisitMaine.com both include information about the Scenic Byway. New information resources in progress include an active outdoor recreation themed Byway region map, and a Story Map site featuring the scenic byways and self-guided regional driving tours of the DownEast Acadia region.

Directional signage

The Bold Coast Scenic Byway is marked from beginning to end with Maine Scenic Byways signs. The Byway is located entirely on state and state-aid roads, well-marked with MaineDOT signs. Routes to state and federal recreation areas are marked by branded state and federal signs. Way-finding map panels are located at six key water-side scenic stops including 5 municipal parks in Cherryfield, Jonesport, Jonesboro, Machias (state owned), Lubec, and Eastport.

Evidence of Intrinsic Qualities

Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge – Recreation

Beginning in Milbridge at the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge (MCINWR) Visitors Center, the short drive to Petit Manan provides an intimate glimpse into Downeast lobster fishing culture. The road travels past lobster pounds, humble homes and rugged trucks, dooryards piled high with brightly colored traps, tidy wharves, and cabins strung with beach-combed buoys.

Travelers can also reach Petit Manan by paddling out of Narraguagus Bay in Milbridge.

The Bold Coast forms the easternmost end of the Atlantic Flyway, critical habitat for migratory songbirds and waterfowl. Petit Manan Point is within the MCINWR, a complex of islands and coastal properties managed and preserved for seabird nesting and coastal wading bird habitat and provides exemplary birdwatching vantage points. During fall, over 4,000 ducks rest and feed at Petit Manan's Cranberry Flowage before migrating south.

Petit Manan was once slated to become "a second Bar Harbor" – a fate any local worth their salt will loudly rail against today. Petit Manan Land Company filed plans in 1886 for over 2,100 acres to be developed with 1,300 cottages, a casino, clubhouse, steamboat dock, swimming beach, and two hotels – but only a few cottages and a church were ever constructed (and remain today). In 1975 most of this land was transferred into Petit Manan Wildlife Refuge, setting the stage for the incredible habitat and recreation area we enjoy today.

Petit Manan Point's 1.5-mile Hollingsworth Trail is part of a research project by Phenology Trackers of Maine including climate change and food sources for migratory birds. The trail winds through blueberry field, over granite outcroppings, and through jack pine stands to a rocky beach with expansive views across Pigeon Hill Bay. Explorers with sturdy shoes can continue along the rocky shoreline for miles. Petit Manan Island's granite lighthouse (built in 1855) is visible from the beach. Another 11 lighthouses accessible by land and sea dot the Bold Coast – a few are seasonally open to the public.

Numerous Petit Manan Division refuge islands along the Bold Coast contribute to the Maine Island Trail, a water route along the entire coast of Maine featuring a series of 200 islands and mainland beaches accessible to the public, many with primitive campsites. Maine Island Trail, now over 30 years old, has been dubbed by National Geographic as one of the "50 Best American Adventures".

Just prior to entering the Wildlife Refuge is a trailhead for Pigeon Hill; the 317' summit is the highest point on the Bold Coast and provides an excellent long view up the coast. The summit trail has been popular with hikers for over a century.

Petit Manan Point is 6 miles south of the junction of Route 1 and Pigeon Hill Road in Steuben. Federally branded National Wildlife Refuge signage marks the way at this intersection.

Both trails are easy to moderate.

Cherryfield National Historic District - History

Downtown Cherryfield, located on the Narraguagus River, was built from the wealth of timber, fisheries, wild blueberries, shipbuilding, and maritime trades. It's architecture includes ornate nineteenth century styles - Federal, Greek and Colonial Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, and a large concentration of Second Empire dwellings. The downtown is now a National Historic District with 51 contributing structures. Visitors can stroll the historic riverside neighborhoods and enjoy several pocket parks.

Cherryfield/Narraguagus Historical Society is keeper of Cherryfield's history. Visitors can explore themed rooms at their house museum or utilize their Historic District walking tour guide to stories behind these beautiful houses. Nearby downtown Columbia Falls is another superb location to see well-preserved historic architecture; the Ruggles House Museum features an exemplary "flying staircase".

Over 90 ships were built and launched from Cherryfield, including the bark Belgrade which rounded Cape Horn with 56 local men during California's gold rush. Ships often began their maiden voyages loaded with local goods for commerce along the eastern seaboard. As ships became larger, builders moved operations to deeper waters. Shipbuilding remains an important trade on the Bold Coast. Jonesport is particularly known for distinct and enduring boat styles.

Cable Pool Park was a nationally renowned wild Atlantic salmon fishing spot. The Narraguagus creates rapids as it begins to drop slightly in elevation. Anglers experienced some of the best fishing on this very spot. A 1940s tourism brochure from the Narraguagus Fish & Game Association says it all: "Try fishing here once and you will spend the next Winter waiting until it's time for you to be on the business end of a fly rod, again." The brochure states that, in 1940, "Five thousand 4-6 inch Salmon were liberated in this river". Downeast Salmon Federation in Columbia Falls was founded to restore the wild Atlantic salmon sports fishery. Anglers and recreationists can paddle upriver from Cable Pool Park through conservation lands on the quiet waters of the Narraguagus River's main stem and West Branch.

Cable Pool Park is on the Downeast Fisheries Trail, a self-guided driving tour developed to engage people in the region's historic and active maritime heritage; 20 sites are along the Scenic Byway.

The Down East Sunrise Trail, formerly the Calais Branch Railroad Corridor, cuts through Cherryfield across the Narraguagus River via a trestle bridge at Cable Pool Park. Several wild blueberry companies conveniently located their plants adjacent to the rail line, which carried wild blueberries and sardines from the Bold Coast to feed soldiers during the Civil War. Cherryfield has housed Wyman's Blueberries for 120 years and continues to claim title as Wild Blueberry Capital of the World.

Cable Pool Park and Down East Sunrise Trail are open year-round; Sunrise Trail has seasonal exclusions for

off-road vehicles, weather depending.

The turnoff to Cable Pool Park and boat launch is 0.7 miles north of the Scenic Byway; no signage indicates the park and launch.

The Historic District River Walk, Sunrise Trail and Narraguagus River are easy.

Wild Blueberry Barrens – History

Byway travelers will experience a landscape on the Bold Coast that exists nowhere else in the world – wide open expanses of low-bush wild blueberry fields, called “barrens”. With over 6.5 million varieties, fields can contain 1,500 genetically distinct plants that create the complex flavor of wild blueberries and unique patchwork of foliage in spring and fall.

Wild blueberries have thrived for 10,000 years despite the nutrient-deficient sandy glacial outwash plains in which they grow. People have cultivated the wild blueberry as an important food source through biennial burning since their beginning. Large scale commercial production only began in the later 1800’s. Now, over 90% of the world’s wild blueberry supply grows on the Bold Coast.

The August harvest once drew a large population of migrant workers to the region, including Mic Macs from Canada, Hispanics, and Latinos. Migrants sent money home to their families.

Generations of local youth paid for school clothes and their first cars. A permanent population of Latin-x residents, wild blueberry farms with roadside stands, giant tractors crawling down the road, and seasonal workers are a modern-day continuation of the long-standing history of wild blueberry production.

Due to the tradition of wild blueberry farming, substrate in the barrens remains intact, revealing some of the best-preserved glacial features in Maine. Pineo Ridge in Cherryfield, a site on the Maine Ice Age Trail, is considered one of the finest examples of a washboard moraine in the Eastern US. The Baseline Road offers a side loop from Cherryfield to experience the vastness and wild beauty of Wyman’s barrens and accesses several Maine Ice Age Trail sites.

In order to map the Atlantic seaboard for navigation and national defense in early 1800’s using a chain of triangles, six baselines were constructed from Maine to Louisiana, measured and built with extreme accuracy. In 1857, local farmers and lumbermen were hired to grade a 12-foot-wide path along the 6th and final baseline. Where necessary, the path was cut into banks or raised by stone cribbing so that the incline or decline never exceeded one foot in six meters. The rugged coast of Maine made it necessary to site the last baseline well inland, therefore Most of the Epping Baseline Road is intact; no remnants remain of the other five baselines. The Cherryfield- Narraguagus Historical Society is home to what is left of the eastern baseline marker.

The gravel Baseline Road loop leads travelers back to the Scenic Byway near Ruggles House museum in the Columbia Falls historic district and the Wild Blueberry Land Museum. The annual Machias Wild Blueberry festival with its Wild Blueberry Musical and wild blueberry farm tours are a regional harvest celebration of the humble fruit that continues to shape our landscapes and lives.

Fresh wild blueberries are available during August; frozen berries are available year-round. Wild

Blueberry Land's museum is open daily June to October.

The Baseline Road intersects State Route 193 7 miles north of the Scenic Byway in Cherryfield and is marked at this intersection.

Jonesport and Beals – History

Jonesport and Beals are a rough and ready “behind-the-scenery” experience of a DownEast fishing community still populated by generations of lobster fishing families. This is a landscape in action featuring hard-working men and women who provide seafood to the world, including the 2nd highest annual catch of Maine lobster in Maine. Dooryards are piled high with accoutrements of deeply rooted traditions built by generations of salty fishermen - lobster traps, buoys, and boats awaiting their return to sea. Locals are protective of their fishing heritage and way-of-life, but friendly and quick to tell their life story to strangers.

Colonel Beal settled Beals over two centuries ago; residents today are direct Beal descendants and continue the family name. The most legendary Beal is “Tall Barney,” memorialized in folklore collections, who stood at least 6-feet 6-inches tall and possessed enormous strength. Barney's demise supposedly involved a feat of superhuman strength; his life is fittingly memorialized by a 7- foot monument on Beals Island. Due to his folklore fame, Tall Barney's 1858 fishing log is preserved in the Smithsonian collection.

Jonesport began as a worldwide maritime trading center; local families are descendants of mariners lost at sea and is also known for its legendary characters. During the 1930s, radio personality Phillips Lord created “Seth Parker,” a clergyman and philosopher in Jonesport, inspired by Lord's own grandfather. Local watering holes and public boat launches are a great place for Byway Travelers to meet witty storytellers carrying on the unique genre of Downeast humor, which tends to use sarcasm and irony in the face of life's challenge, and pokes cheeky fun at “city folk” or “people from away.”

Jonesport was a worldwide maritime trading center; many families are descendants of mariners lost at sea. Demand for non-perishable protein kept families employed in seining and packing sardines for a century. A method was developed to transport live lobsters in smacks with wet wells, which began its rise to second most prolific lobstering port in Maine. Other important international exports include scallops, mussels, clams, and crabs.

Three Downeast Fisheries Trail sites in Jonesport and Beals engage Byway travelers with historic and active fisheries culture. Down East Institute produces juvenile shellfish to replenish the clamming industry, which supports hundreds of Bold Coast families and supplies coveted treats to visitors from around the world; educational tours are offered to the public. The Beals Heritage Center and Jonesport Historical Society maintain historic archives that tell the tale of how Jonesport and Beals evolved into the iconic and thriving Downeast lobster fishing community it remains today.

Travelers can camp at the Henry's Point municipal campground, directly on the banks of Jonesport harbor. Campers can watch fishing boats come and go and awaken at dawn to roaring boat engines. Byway travelers can launch sea kayaks from several landings in downtown Jonesport; paddling the shoreline of these communities is an immersion in a culture that is two centuries old, yet relatively unchanged.

Great Wass Island Preserve - Recreation

Great Wass Island Preserve in Beals is a relatively hidden Bold Coast gem. Paddlers can launch in Jonesport and explore the inlets and islands around Beals and Great Wass. On-road access winds through the heart of a lobster fishing island community built on 150 years of family tradition. The Nature Conservancy purchased the Preserve property 40 years ago, another testimony to the desire of local folk to keep the Bold Coast intact for future generations.

Great Wass Island Preserve's 4.5-mile hiking trail traverses exposed granite ledge through the preserve's unique coastal forests and bogs, and then rambles along the shore of Eastern Bay. Mounds of green moss and lichen carpet the rocks and forest floor along the way. Adventurous explorers can extend their hike by heading south along the shore toward Red Head and The Pond, a large tidal inlet that's open to the full brunt of the Atlantic Ocean.

At the shore, exposed granite bedrock drops steeply into the sea, revealing the "Fundian Fault," a long crack in the Earth's crust extending from the Bay of Fundy to New Hampshire. The trail along the beach crosses boulder beaches, gravel beaches, mudflats, and great rounded granite headlands. Moose Peak Lighthouse is visible from these headlands. During a hot afternoon in the summer, when the tide comes in over the sun-warmed beach sand, this is a perfect place to test one's ability to swim like a local in the refreshing salt water of the Atlantic Ocean.

Great Wass Island, connected to Beals Island via causeway, projects farther out to sea than any other land mass in eastern Maine. The Gulf of Maine and the Bay of Fundy meet just east of Jonesport; their mixing produces a cool, humid oceanic climate ideal for rare plants and natural communities. Extreme conditions like constant wind, salt spray, harsh winter storms, and cool summers greatly influence the species types found here and creates unique ecosystems.

Great Wass Island Preserve supports one of Maine's largest stands of coastal jack pine on soil so thin that few other species besides these twisted and stunted trees can survive. This particular community of jack pine has evolved to successfully reproduce without the heat of fire typically required to open seed cones.

Great Wass also has bogs unique to this part of the state. Maritime slope bogs formed on top of coastal bedrock, and raised bogs formed as sphagnum moss accumulated in the scoured basins left by retreating glaciers. Carnivorous plants like sundew and pitcher plant thrive on Great Wass.

Premier outdoor recreation activities include hiking, road-biking, Plein air arts, birdwatching, botanizing, and sea kayaking.

Open year-round during daylight hours.

Great Wass Island is accessed via the Beals Island Bridge; the trailhead is approximately 4.3 miles from the Bold Coast Scenic Byway. The bridge is visible from the Byway and marked with signage. Once on Beals, signage points the way to the Preserve.

The coastline portion of the trail is moderately difficult at points due to rocks and slope; the remainder is moderate. At high tide, the going is a bit rougher. However, stalwart children can easily handle this trail.

Burnham Tavern and Margareta Days – History

Machias developed around the confluence of three rivers at the head of Machias Bay. The Scenic Byway passes over the mighty Machias River where it slices through downtown at Bad Little Falls Park. “Bad little falls,” or “bad run of water,” roughly translates from Passamaquoddy to the name “Machias”. The series of smaller falls drop nearly 30 feet down sheer rock. The estuary below the falls is visited by eagles, osprey, and migratory fish, including endangered Atlantic salmon. A foot bridge and viewing platform in the park welcome travelers to enjoy this beautiful natural feature and namesake at the heart of historic downtown Machias.

Just up the street from Bad Little Falls Park is the Burnham Tavern museum, a National Historic Site and one of 21 homes in the United States deemed significant to the American Revolution. Early in the war, American merchant Ichabod Jones sailed from Boston to Machias to facilitate a trade on behalf of the British, who needed lumber, which Machias produced in abundance. The British sent the armed cutter HMS Margareta along to insure Jones’ success.

Jones demanded that Machias load their lumber before he would unload any British provisions for trade. Burnham’s tavern became the scene of hot debate as townspeople discussed whether or not to commence trade. After the Margareta was positioned within firing distance of town, the people of Machias eventually voted to trade; Jones refused to do business with anyone who had opposed trade. Several local militias set out to capture Jones, and the first naval engagement of the American Revolution ensued as militiamen fought back British troops with pitchforks, axes, and hunting rifles. Burnham’s Tavern became a makeshift hospital for the wounded. The Margareta’s Captain died here, supposedly leaving behind a wooden chest soaked with his blood.

Great Britain attempted to destroy Machias in revenge for the capture of HMS Margareta. The Patriots, with the aid of Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Penobscot warriors, harassed and attacked the British, forcing their retreat. A living history group in the Machias area re-enacts the Battle of the Rim, including several ancestors of actual battle participants.

Margareta Days Festival has become an annual tradition for 15 years. The Festival is held on the University of Maine campus, within an encampment of period re-enactors and demonstrations. Attendees can participate in timber framing, blacksmithing, weaving, spinning, and tomahawk throwing and lunch on moose or venison stew, meat and fruit pies, beans, and skillet cornbread. Children’s activities include making corn husk dolls and traditional games such as hoop-rolling. Passionate volunteers and historians reenact stories of the battle between redcoats and patriots and its heroes such as Jeremiah O’Brien, Hannah Weston, Rev. Lyons, and Passamaquoddy Chief Jean-Baptiste Neptune.

Bad Little Falls Park is open year-round. Burnham Tavern is open June through October. Margareta Days occurs annually during mid-June.

Two Rivers Conservation Area - Recreation

Bold Coast communities are protective of the natural resources crucial to their way of life. Downtown Machias is the convening point for four conservation properties, all located on what were once critical transportation routes that carried resources that built, and sustain, Bold Coast’s hard-working, hard-playing, nature-based culture.

Middle River Park includes 2 miles of trails winding through fields and forests with panoramic views of Middle River. Settlers used the property for salt hay production; it later became pasture for draft horses and cattle supporting St. Regis Paper Company's logging operations.

Several picnic tables on a grassy hill provide a spot for Byway travelers to enjoy lunch while overlooking the river and tidal floodplains. Two boat launches provide access to Middle River and Machias Bay.

Entering Middle River Park requires crossing the Down East Sunrise Trail beside a former train station, one of 5 remaining from the Washington County Railroad. "Station 1898" is a visitor information center, now fully restored and on the National Register of Historic Places. The Down East Sunrise Trail, an 87-mile multi-use trail on the decommissioned Calais Branch Railroad Corridor, once carried trains loaded with freight and visitors to Calais and Eastport and departed with fish and timber. Franklin Delano and Eleanor Roosevelt traveled this line en route to their summer retreat on Campobello Island. The Sunrise Trail is the longest contiguous off-road section of the East Coast Greenway, a bicycle route connecting communities between Key West, Florida and Calais.

The Sunrise Trail also connects Middle River Park with Machias River Preserve's 5.5 miles of trails along the Machias River. Remnants of structures that guided water and logs downriver are visible from the trail, evidence of the river's role in a prolific logging industry. Preserve access in Whitneyville, dubbed "the town that trees built," crosses a former railroad bridge with views over the mighty Machias. Although river-drives ended in the 1970s, logging is still an important part of life on the Bold Coast.

Intrepid Byway travelers can paddle the wild and scenic Machias River Corridor, a 76-mile back-country canoe trip from Fifth Machias Lake to downtown Machias. Primitive campsites and vehicle access points are located along the route, allowing exploration of all or part of the Corridor.

The Machias River supports Maine's greatest self-sustaining population of wild Atlantic salmon. Birdwatching abounds on the inland lakes identified by American Bird Conservancy as a Globally Important Bird Area, where at least 180 species of birds have been documented, including 23 warblers. Over 6,000 acres, including 252 miles of river and contributing lakes and streams, are forever protected for recreation and wildlife through a monumental effort involving numerous public and private entities.

All land trails are open year-round.

All land trails are easy. Machias River includes several class III ledge-drop rapids.

The Cutler Coast – Recreation

Cutler Coast Preserve and Bog Brook Cove comprise the 2nd largest contiguous conservation area on Maine's coast, protecting 14,000 acres and 7.5 miles of shoreline for habitat and public access. These trails are between Cutler and Lubec on the Cutler Coast, the boldest stretch of coastline on the eastern seaboard. Cutler Coast Preserve trails have long been dubbed the "Bold Coast Trail".

En route, the Byway passes through bucolic Cutler harbor, nestled at the mouth of Little River with tidy homes on grassy hills sweeping down to a snug group of wharves, fishing shacks, and lobster boats. Little

River Lighthouse offers visitors a truly unique experience - an overnight stay in the Keepers House. Frederic Morong, Jr., lighthouse inspector, authored the famous lighthouse poem Brassworks at the kitchen table of the lighthouse.

The Byway traverses open meadows and wild blueberry fields, then dips into maritime forest. The most magnificent portion of the Bold Coast is obscured from view by the forest, but discovery awaits via several trail options along the Cutler Coast.

Forest trails wind through peatlands that harbor rare and unusual flora and fauna. The unique composition of spruce-fir-larch forest and glacial influence supports raised coastal peatland plant communities rarely found south of Canada. Nearly 200 species of birds are recorded along the Cutler Coast, some rare to Maine. Archaeological excavation uncovered stone tools and fire-cracked rocks. Agrarian history is evident in the stonewalls and cellar holes that remain.

Bog Brook and Cutler Coast trails lead to what every Bold Coast visitor should see...jagged edges of the North American continent sheared off by glaciers and dropped into a pounding sea, and infinite views across the Bay of Fundy.

The Cutler Coast's steep and jagged landscape epitomizes the influence of glacial forces, dramatic tides, and harsh maritime climate on recreation assets across the Bold Coast. The high rocky shores of these two preserves, roughly 220 feet above sea level, are a plateau that rebounded after the last glacial retreat. Exposed igneous bedrock was deposited 420 million years ago.

Machias Seal Island off the Cutler coast is a renowned birdwatching destination in North America. Each year the tiny, barren island becomes summer nesting home for a great number and variety of migratory seabirds. Machias Seal Island is the largest puffin colony on the Maine coast, with thousands more birds than any other site. The island is designated a bird sanctuary by the U.S. and Canadian Wildlife Service. Ownership of the island has been under dispute for many years, with both the United States and Canadian governments claiming sovereignty. Canadian Coast Guard operates a manned lighthouse on the island. Byway travelers can view birds and the lighthouse from one of many wildlife boat tours offered along the Bold Coast.

Both preserves are open year-round; Cutler Coast Preserve offers 5 primitive pack-in campsites.

Cutler Coast's Overlook trail is easy; the remainder is moderate. Bog Brook's Moose Cove Trail offers 1100 feet of handicapped-accessible trail leading to a spectacular lookout.

Quoddy Head State Park & West Quoddy Head Lighthouse – History/Recreation

A short spur trip off the Scenic Byway toward Quoddy Head State Park and West Quoddy Head Lighthouse skirts Lubec Channel, providing an open view toward downtown Lubec, Campobello Island, and the International Bridge. Low tide reveals mudflats and clamdiggers at work.

West Quoddy Head Lighthouse sits on the easternmost point of the continental US and welcomes the day's first rays of sunlight. The red and white striped lighthouse is the only "candy striped" tower in the Nation. During its lifetime the lamp has been illuminated with whale oil, lard oil, kerosene and electricity. Full automation eventually eliminated need for a resident Keeper. The first floor of the lightkeeper's residence,

which housed generations of light-keeping families, is now occupied by a visitor center featuring interactive displays, historic photos and information, and a gallery of local artists.

Lighthouses have lined the Bold Coast for two centuries, and lighthouse keepers have shone their guiding lights and sounded foghorns to bring mariners safely home. Connie Small, “First Lady of Light,” was born in Lubec and spent much of her life living in lighthouses in Maine, including at West Quoddy Head, where her father was a keeper at the Quoddy Head Lifesaving Station. Connie was famous in the lighthouse preservation movement, giving well over 500 lectures on the topic, and wrote “The Lighthouse Keepers Wife,” which describes her life as a lighthouse-keeper. The West Quoddy Head Lightkeepers Association keeps the light of curiosity and wonder alive through connecting visitors and residents with the lighthouse, community of Lubec, and our maritime heritage.

Quoddy Head State Park encompasses most of the Quoddy headlands. The name Quoddy Head means “fertile and beautiful place” in Passamaquoddy. The steep black cliffs formed during the Silurian Age when volcanic magma rose up from the ocean. Park trails traverse these rocky headlands with incredible views over Quoddy Channel to the red cliffs of Grand Manan Island in New Brunswick, Canada. The Coastal Trail passes a narrow chasm in an eroded vertical fault, a 150-foot bluff, and a ledge outcropping pounded by surf and wind. Visitors might spot several species of whales; during migration seasons, hundreds of shorebirds congregate at Lubec Flats and Carrying Place Cove. The park contains unusual coastal plateau bogs with sub-arctic and arctic plants rarely seen south of Canada. Carrying Place Cove Bog is a National Natural Landmark. The Coast Guard Trail was originally used by the lightkeepers when returning to the lighthouse from the water. The park includes a large picnic area with tables, grills and privies.

Tower tours occur during July and August, and on Maine Open Lighthouse Day. The visitor center is open Memorial Day weekend through mid-October; the park is open April-October.

West Quoddy Head is 4 miles south of the Scenic Byway. The South Lubec Road turn is well- marked with State Park and Lighthouse signs.

Coast Guard Trail is ADA accessible for ½ mile. Most trails are easy to moderate.

Downtown Lubec - History

Lubec, easternmost community of the continental US, juts out into Lubec Channel, the international border with New Brunswick, Canada. Lubec Channel forms a tight bottleneck between downtown Lubec and Campobello Island in New Brunswick. Twice a day the immense tidal shift of the Bay of Fundy turns Lubec Narrows into a churning sea where seals and birds feed and play. Just inside the channel, Lubec harbors a hard-working fishing fleet and tour boats.

Lubec’s culture is deeply connected to the sea, and, importantly, the herring industry. The waters off Lubec once teemed with herring, pollock and shellfish. The Passamaquoddy Tribe made seasonal encampments at Seward’s Neck during spring smelt runs. The very word “Passamaquoddy” means “pollock plenty place” in their tribal language. During the industry’s heyday, sardine canneries and smokehouses lined Lubec’s waterfront, plus docks, boat yards, and chandleries. People in Lubec fondly recall their days working at McCurdy’s Smokehouse, the Nation’s last operating herring smokehouse.

McCurdy’s is now a Museum on the National Register of Historic Places and a must-see interactive site on

the Downeast Fisheries Trail – it still smells a bit like smoked herring.

Lost Fisherman's Memorial Park honors fishermen lost at sea off the Bold Coast. Names of 111 fishermen are etched into the memorial's Wave sculpture; many of their descendants and families live in the region today. The Wave's creator, a sculptor from Steuben who continues the granite cutting tradition, created the Maine Sculpture Trail, a series of large and interactive art installations, sculpted from local granite, located in parks across the Bold Coast. Directly across the channel from the Memorial is Mulholland Point Lighthouse on Campobello Island in New Brunswick, Canada, still guiding mariners that last leg home. The Park is adjacent to the commercial boat ramp and ripping currents of Lubec Narrows, a beautiful yet sobering spot to sit and contemplate the complex, intimate connection between 200 years of Bold Coast inhabitants and the generous yet brutal sea.

Campobello Island's only land access is through downtown Lubec. Campobello Island's sheer headlands mirror the Cutler Coast. Roosevelt/Campobello International Park is the only International Park in the world. Hiking and biking trails wind throughout the park's Natural Areas. The Park was developed around President Franklin D. and Eleanor Roosevelt's summer home, where Eleanor held daily teas that inspired many political accomplishments around civil rights. Eleanor became our first delegate to the United Nations.

Mowry Beach Preserve provides downtown access to 1.2-miles of sandy beach overlooking Lubec Channel. A 1,700-foot boardwalk crosses coastal-scrub woodland, sphagnum bog, and cattail swamp. Remains are visible of a primeval forest that migrated inland as melting glaciers caused sea level rise. Mowry's sandy beach is a rare geological phenomenon on the Bold Coast; the beach is on the Maine Ice Age Trail.

International Park grounds are open year-round; the Visitor Center and Summer Cottage are open mid-May to mid-October. Mowry Beach is open year-round.

Mowry Beach and trail are easy with an accessible boardwalk.

Cobscook Bay - Recreation

Cobscook Bay encompasses the tidal waters and several smaller bays between Lubec, Eastport, and Perry. The name Cobscook is the Maliseet-Passamaquoddy tribal word for "boiling tides,"

Cobscook Bay is an unusual estuary with a narrow opening to the sea; long, convoluted shoreline; and few tributaries. Twice-daily tides in the Bay average 24 feet, with occasional tides as high as 28 feet (average tides in southern Maine are 9 feet). These large tides bring nutrient-rich water from the Gulf of Maine, which stimulates phytoplankton growth that feeds a notable diversity of invertebrates, including multiple intertidal species normally found in subarctic waters. Cobscook Bay contains some of the last great scallop beds in the State of Maine. Eagles, ospreys, seals, otters and even the occasional bear enjoy the Bay's abundant fish, including smelt, alewives, shad, sea-run brook trout, striped bass and the Atlantic salmon. In summer, finback, minke, and right whales visit the Bay.

The Bay's productive food web nourishes more than 200 bird species. Attracted by Cobscook Bay's sheltered coves, mudflats, and eelgrass beds, thousands of shorebirds stop over each fall to rest and forage as they migrate south from northern breeding grounds. Cobscook Bay has the highest density of nesting bald eagles in the northeastern United States and has played a key role in restoring eagle

populations. During the winter, the bay's convoluted shoreline and strong tidal flow keep it relatively free of ice, making it attractive to waterfowl such as black ducks and Canada geese. Up to 25% of Maine's wintering black ducks can be found in Cobscook Bay.

Outdoor recreation opportunities include hiking, biking, paddling, birdwatching, photography, Plein air arts, camping, beach-combing, and more.

Mowry Beach Preserve in Lubec includes 1.2-miles of sandy beach overlooking Lubec Channel. A 1,700-foot boardwalk crosses coastal-scrub, sphagnum bog, and cattail swamp. Low tide reveals the remains of a primeval forest that migrated inland as melting glaciers caused sea level rise. Mowry's long sandy beach, a site on the Maine Ice Age Trail, is a rare geological phenomenon on the Bold Coast.

Cobscook Shores/Red Point Park includes several connected sites with hiking trails, kayak launching sites, carriage roads for biking, picnic areas, and access to incredible birdwatching. Numerous public conservation sites around Cobscook Shores contribute 138 miles of hiking trails, beaches, and islands with public access.

Cobscook Bay State Park has many campsites located at the water's edge. At low tide, campers may dig for the delicious soft shell clam. The Park is a great base for family camping and regional explorations.

Shackford Head State Park in Eastport offers 2 miles of trails across rocky headlands rising 173 feet above sea level, and sweeping views across Cobscook Bay toward Atlantic Salmon aquaculture pens off Campobello Island.

The Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway connects each of these parks, trails, campsites, beaches, boat landings, and more along the entire length of the Scenic Byway; the Cobscook Bay area provides some of the most magnificent views and Byway experiences for road bicyclists.

Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge - Recreation

Moosehorn Wildlife Refuge, one of the oldest National Wildlife Refuges in the country, comprises two divisions on the Bold Coast - Edmunds and Baring. Moosehorn is the easternmost National Wildlife Refuge on the Atlantic flyway, a migration route that follows the east coast of North America, making the Refuge an important breeding ground and critical migratory stopover point for many species. Moosehorn Wildlife Refuge provides habitat to many songbirds, including neotropical migrants; twenty-six species of migrating warblers birds nest on the refuge. Ospreys nest in refuge marshes. Bald eagles frequent the refuge to feed on fish. In recent years, several pairs of eagles have nested at Moosehorn NWR. Waterfowl, moose, deer, bear, beavers and many others make the Refuge their year-round home. Two viewing platforms just outside of Calais are one of the best bald eagles viewing locations in Maine.

Large swaths of the Wildlife Refuge are managed for woodcock habitat. Woodcock are abundant throughout the season and vocal from late April through late May. Their mating displays are some of the most famous in the bird kingdom. Woodcock, ruffed grouse, moose, deer, and a variety of songbirds prosper only in a young forest. In the past, wildfires revitalized the forest, while farming maintained open areas. Wildfires are rare today. Farmland acreage has decreased dramatically. Habitat management at the Refuge includes timber harvesting and controlled burning to provide clearings and early growth forests

that mimic the effects of wildfire and farming.

Moosehorn offers interpretive programs and activities and hosts annual events such as the Downeast Spring Birding Festival (Memorial Day Weekend), children's fishing derby (June), and warbler and amphibian walks each spring. The wheelchair-accessible Woodcock and Charlotte trails provide visitors with information on native habitat and wildlife.

Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge contains over 50 miles of dirt roads and trails for biking and hiking. The Edmunds Division includes miles of rocky shoreline with tidal fluctuations of up to 24 feet. Gravel service roads that allow vehicles also permit biking. Wilderness Areas offer opportunities for solitude and traditional forms of recreation (hiking, canoeing, cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing).

Many streams and several lakes and ponds are open to fishing. Cobscook Bay State Park, in the Edmunds Division, has camping facilities on the ocean. Facilities for individuals with physical challenges include a viewing deck, nature trail, fishing pier, and restrooms. The park offers a view of dramatically changing tides that on average can rise to 24 feet high, with some reaching as high as 28 feet.

Trails are open year-round, but most roads are not maintained for the public in winter. Deer hunting is allowed in November. The visitor center and educational programs operate seasonally.

Moosehorn offices and visitor center are three miles south of the Charlotte Road intersection with the Scenic Byway on Route 1.

Trails and gravel biking roads at both divisions are easy.

Downtown Eastport – History

The Scenic Byway runs between Cobscook Bay and Western Passage through Sipayik, traditionally a seasonal Passamaquoddy fishing village, now a Tribal Reservation. The Wapohahki Museum displays traditional tools, baskets, arts, artifacts, historic photos, and conducts preservation of the Passamaquoddy language. Life-size mannequins, modeled after actual Passamaquoddy Tribal members, are arranged in settings depicting their traditional day-to-day lifestyle.

Eastport is an island surrounded by Passamaquoddy and Cobscook Bays. The protected downtown harbor hosts cruise ships, tugs, Coast Guard, sailing, and fishing boats. A paved walkway along the bustling waterfront connects main street shops with two commercial piers. Anglers frequently fish from these piers, and whales surface just offshore. The "Old Sow" whirlpool, largest whirlpool in the western hemisphere, is accessible via tour boat.

A century ago, Eastport was called "sardine capital of America," one of the busiest ports in the US. Three pearl essence factories produced cosmetic glitter from slime off fish scales. Eastport housed five ship chandleries; S. L. Wadsworth & Son, maintained by six generations of family proprietors, is now the oldest operating ship chandlery in the nation.

Wesley Raye began making mustard for tinned sardines over 120 years ago. Raye's is the only mustard mill in North America still using the traditional cold grind process; their grinding stones are the original stones shipped from France in 1900. Raye's Historic Old Stone Mill, a working museum with retail, commemorates

the Raye family commitment to tradition.

Eastport declined rapidly after the herring industry disappeared, leaving empty storefronts, streets, and homes for decades. A heritage of stubborn grit and resourcefulness, along with changing demographics, slowly led to a renaissance of Eastport's downtown through, mainly through the arts and in part due to the Fox TV series, *Murder in Small Town X*. Eastport's empty storefronts and streets were temporarily converted into a lively, life-filled small-town village center staged for filming. Locals, inspired by the excitement of this instant downtown makeover, began refreshing and refilling storefronts, this time with galleries, boutiques, antiques, eateries, museums, and studios. Homes in the Historic District are restored and occupied. Eastport has gained international attention as "the Little Town that Could."

The Tides Institute sponsors art exhibits, events, and arts education around the shared heritage of the 3 Bold Coast nations – the Passamaquoddy, Canadian, and US. Tides Institute has hosted the Great Sardine and Maple Leaf Drop on New Year's Eve for 16 years. A giant red maple leaf is lowered to commemorate the Canadian new year at midnight, Atlantic time. At midnight Eastern time, an 8-foot sardine is dropped, which spectators kiss for good luck.

Shackford Head State Park trails are open year-round. Some trails are closed during eagle nesting season.

Trails are easy/moderate; some are wheelchair accessible.

St. Croix Island International Historic Site - History

The Bold Coast Scenic Byway continues up Cobscook Bay, an unusual estuary with a narrow opening to the sea and long, convoluted shoreline. The name Cobscook is a Maliseet- Passamaquoddy word meaning "boiling tides." The Bay of Fundy's tidal shifts, which average 24 feet, push massive amounts of water through the bay's narrow channel. The nutrient-rich waters of the Bay feed an abundant array of invertebrates, which feed fish, birds, and mammals. The Bay's inner coves support a quarter of Maine's wintering black ducks and the state's highest concentration of bald eagles.

In addition to its wildlife, the landscape around Cobscook Bay reveals, according to geologist Nathaniel Shaler in 1886, "a more interesting assemblage of phenomena than can be found on any other part of the eastern seaboard of the United States."

The Scenic Byway continues along Passamaquoddy Bay and then follows the St. Croix River, which forms the international boundary. The river was called "Skutik" by the Passamaquoddy people; prior to that it was inhabited by robust cultures of their ancestors. The St. Croix's first settlers arrived nearly 12,000 years ago. The river became a major crossroads for harvesting seafood and accessing the Penobscot and Saint John river system.

Just inside the river's mouth is St. Croix Island, site of the first French attempt in 1604 to colonize the territory they called l'Acadie, one of the earliest European settlements in northern North America, predating even the British colony of Jamestown.

Pierre Dugua led a group of French settlers, including Samuel Champlain, to locate the elusive China trade route and profit from trade in l'Acadie. They chose Saint Croix Island to settle on for its prime location near the confluence of two rivers and a bay. The winter of 1604-1605 was one of the coldest on record; the settlers were unprepared for its brutality. Ice floes prevented them reaching the mainland, and

food. Nearly half of them died from scurvy, malnutrition and exposure, and were buried in a small cemetery on Saint Croix Island. The Passamaquoddy returned to their summer home on Saint Croix Island that spring and saved the men's lives; they moved on to Port Royal, Nova Scotia.

Saint Croix Island International Historic Site, the only International Historic Site in the world, commemorates this settlement. The National Park Service and Parks Canada each administer a site on their respective side of the Saint Croix River. The US park features an interpretive trail on a small, wooded point overlooking St. Croix Island. A number of life-size bronze figures of the French and Passamaquoddy and informative displays located along the trail tell their story. The Park has a visitor center, restrooms, wi-fi, and a ranger on-site to provide interpretive tours.

The park is normally open year-round during daylight hours. During winter, services are limited; displays along the interpretive trail are covered, and the visitor center is closed.

The interpretive trail and visitor facilities are ADA accessible.

Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway, Eastern Gateway – Recreation

Calais sits on the banks of the St. Croix River at the Bold Coast's northernmost head-of-tide. Just a stone's throw across the river is St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada. The Calais Waterfront Walkway, once part of the Maine Central Railroad, is a grassy riverside promenade in downtown Calais with benches, picnic facilities, bike repair and EV charging stations, a boat launch, and 1.5- miles of outstanding vistas over the St. Croix River and downtown St. Stephen. The main entrance is behind the Wahponaki Cultural Center and Maine State Visitor Center.

St. Stephen also has a riverside promenade connecting pocket parks and downtown shops and eateries. St. Stephen's walkway is just across the International Bridge, providing an easy, delightful three-nation vacation, or entre to New Brunswick's own Scenic Drives. Ganong Chocolate Museum is just a few steps off the walkway. Savor the 150-year chocolate legacy of Ganong family chocolatiers and explore St. Stephens history on the Heritage Chocolate Walking Tour.

The Calais Waterfront Walkway marks the easternmost trailhead of two national bicycling routes, East Coast Greenway and US Bike Route 1, both of which run between Key West, Florida and Calais, Maine.

The Waterfront Walkway is also easternmost gateway for the Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway, a 211- mile bicycling route that generally follows the Scenic Byway and connects with the same features but directs bicyclists to less-trafficked side-loops. The opposite end of the Bikeway is 10 miles west of Milbridge on US Route 1.

The Scenic Bikeway was born from the Scenic Byway's enormous success. Strong community support garnered state-wide attention of the Scenic Byway, and the Bold Coast became increasingly recognized as the hidden gem that it is. Intrigued, the Bicycle Coalition of Maine scouted the potential for Bold Coast communities to host their annual ride, Bike Maine, designed to bring attention and economic support to Maine's less visited communities.

The Bold Coast was chosen for Bike Maine 2016, which sold out more quickly and attracted more Mainers than past rides. The Bicycle Coalition recognized the Bold Coast's potential as a world- class bicycling route

and partnered with local and state interests to create the Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway.

Meanwhile, a year of extensive community-led planning and preparation ensued. Bike Maine 2016 attracted 450 bicyclists, staff, and volunteers to tour up the Bold Coast. Communities, individuals, and organizations along the route hosted meals, campsites, entertainment, and much more for 7 days. Responses from riders and residents were overwhelmingly positive, and, with a little perfecting of the Bike Maine 2016 route, the Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway was born. The route's wayfinding signage is supported by online maps and information. Bold Coast communities continue to support a safe, accessible, world-class bicycle route along the Bold Coast.

All bicycling routes are open year-round. On-road routes are not typically safe to travel by bicycle in winter, but off-road routes are great for fat-bikes. Each bicycling trail offers a range of easy to difficult routes.

St. Croix International Waterway - Recreation

Just upriver from Calais Waterfront Walkway is the Milltown Dam, one of two hydroelectric plants considered oldest in the world. The dam, built in 1881 to power a cotton mill, continues operating after 140 years. The picturesque site of the former cotton mill attracts photographers and is sometimes used for timber championships and other community events. Passamaquoddy used this area as a seasonal fishing campsite and burial ground for millennia before the dam was built at Salmon Falls. Prior to dam construction, Atlantic salmon and alewives, known as gaspereau, went upriver to spawn.

Woodland, the next town north of Calais, provides the closest above-dam access to the 95-mile St. Croix International Waterway between Calais and Vanceboro, a township near both the Million Dollar Scenic View and River Valley Scenic Drive in New Brunswick. Just north of Woodland in Princeton, Grand Falls Flowage enters St. Croix River, creating accesses to a chain of lakes that eventually connect with the Penobscot River. This historic native American water highway is dubbed the Eastern Maine Canoe Trail by Mike Krepner, who helped inspire the Northern Forest Canoe Trail.

The St. Croix International Waterway begins in an extensive chain of wilderness lakes and flows through exceptionally beautiful woodlands and vast natural meadows along the Maine/Canada border. The river's 25 distinct rapids, ranging from light rips to Class II+. An International Waterway Commission maintains 60 campsites and many access points on both sides of the river and oversees stewardship of the waterway. Paddlers can enjoy days of camping amidst pristine wilderness and spectacular scenery, with abundant wildlife to watch and fish to catch, and night skies brilliant with stars. The river passes innumerable stands of towering pine, cedar, and hemlock.

The St. Croix River enabled the St. Croix region's forestry economy to prosper since early settlers cleared the seemingly endless stretches of towering white pines. After the Revolutionary War, Loyalists and Americans settled along the St. Croix. Thousands of men and horses hauled logs from inland forests and drove them downstream to nearly 140 mills in the St. Croix valley. Timber was shipped worldwide and hundreds of sailing ships were built from trees that floated down the St. Croix River. The sheer volume of lumber moved between mills and ports created demand for the state's first railroad. Calais became, during the industry's height, Maine's 2nd busiest lumber port. Remnants of wharves are still visible along the river. A forest products manufacturing facility continues to operate in Woodland, supporting many Bold Coast families in the Calais area.

The St. Croix International Waterway is not safely accessible during winter months. Campsites are first come first served during the off-season. Reservations are recommended during May 1 through Labor Day.

Squirrel Point Boat Launch is 20 miles north of downtown Calais. The turn from US Route 1 to Lamb Farm Road is marked with standard Maine boat launch signage.

The St. Croix International Waterway and connected lakes offer option for paddlers of all experience levels.

SECTION 6: PLANNING/SUSTAINABILITY

Community Support

Bold Coast communities have conducted regional studies and implemented projects around nature-based tourism as an economic and community development tool for nearly 20 years. Examples of resulting projects that continue include the Downeast Fisheries Trail, several Scenic Byways including the Bold Coast, Maine Ice Age Trail, DownEast Acadia Birding Trail, Down East Sunrise Trail, Cobscook Trails, and Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway. Development of the Bold Coast CMP engaged a formal Corridor Advisory Group (52 members) and a Stakeholder group to represent a comprehensive community perspective (239 participants).and many more.

DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism evolved into a strong organization with 25+ members representing the entire DownEast Acadia region.

DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism (DART) and Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC) are primary organizational entities today. DART helps connect and coordinate travel & economic development entities and communities across the region. SCEC is conducting a National Heritage Area feasibility study across the region.

No objections were raised about the CMP. Concerns voiced were typically around land use rights, government control, and funding. Probably the greatest argument was over the name of the Byway.

Very few Bold Coast communities employ zoning ordinances beyond those required by the state. Those communities who do have zoning include only minimal design standards. Maine does not allow outdoor advertising like billboards. The Maine Department of Transportation regulates signage within the public right of way, which includes both State and State-aid roads. Towns either have minimal or no individual sign standards outside of the public way. Bold Coast planning conversations identify a desire to create a set of design suggestions to help coordinate elements of informational kiosks and wayfinding.

View shed protection is accomplished primarily by private and municipal efforts through conservation purchases. Some landowners also voluntarily allow viewshed maintenance by municipalities or Maine Department of Transportation. Comprehensive Plans in Bold Coast communities do address landscape aesthetics and valued views, but specific land use restrictions or design guidelines are not put into place beyond identifying resource protection areas.

Bold Coast Scenic Byway was designated in 2011; the Corridor Management Plan was completed in 2015. By then, the National Scenic Byways program had been defunded. Community leaders along the Bold Coast have championed implementation of many goals in the Corridor Management Plan with funding from

community and private foundations, and Maine Department of Transportation. During the initial Scenic Byway designation process and ensuing management planning process, the intent to apply for National designation once the option arose was discussed and understood. Regional and state awareness of the Bold Coast Scenic Byway has grown over the years, as has support for its continued success.

DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism and Washington County Council of Governments have continued coordination of community, municipal, and travel industry communication and collaboration across the DownEast Acadia region. Once it was announced that the Scenic Byways Program could be reactivated, these organizations began talking about the awaited opportunity. The City of Calais and Town of Robbinston immediately agreed to support an extension of the Byway through their communities, regardless of the final designation. Letters of support gathered for this nomination are all from actively engaged community members who represent the interests of their own members and partners.

All roads included in the Bold Coast Scenic Byway are either State-owned or State-Aid. The Maine Department of Transportation was instrumental in supporting the community to create and begin implementation of the Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway. Installation of State Scenic Byways route signage was coordinated and implemented by Maine Department of Transportation, who coordinated with Byway communities. All municipalities and the Tribe were regularly invited to participate and provided with updates. State agencies such as Fisheries & Wildlife and Parks & Lands, and the National Wildlife Refuge participate in regional planning discussions around the Bold Coast, Schoodic, and Black Woods Scenic Byways; Federal land management agencies often have one representative for the entire DownEast and Bold Coast region, enabling greater understanding of landscape connections and management approaches.

DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism (DART) and Sunrise County Economic Council (SCEC) are the primary economic development and community promotion arms of the Bold Coast. SCEC provides fiscal, administrative, and project support for DART.

SCEC provides businesses technical assistance, access to funding, and skills development, and community assistance with infrastructure development. DART is a collaboration of chambers of commerce, economic development entities, educators, conservation groups, and more. DART is the official destination marketing organization for the two-county DownEast Acadia region

Together these organizations will continue to coordinate Bold Coast initiatives in planning, funding, development, promotion, and management of the Bold Coast Scenic Byway as an exemplary experience of place.

SCEC is conducting a Feasibility Study for National Heritage Area designation, specifically including the Bold Coast. Designation requires significant public engagement and long-term commitment and inspires collaboration. Bold Coast stories and story-telling tools will be reflected, strengthened and unified through this process.

Corridor Management Plan

Date CMP was adopted - 04/20/2015

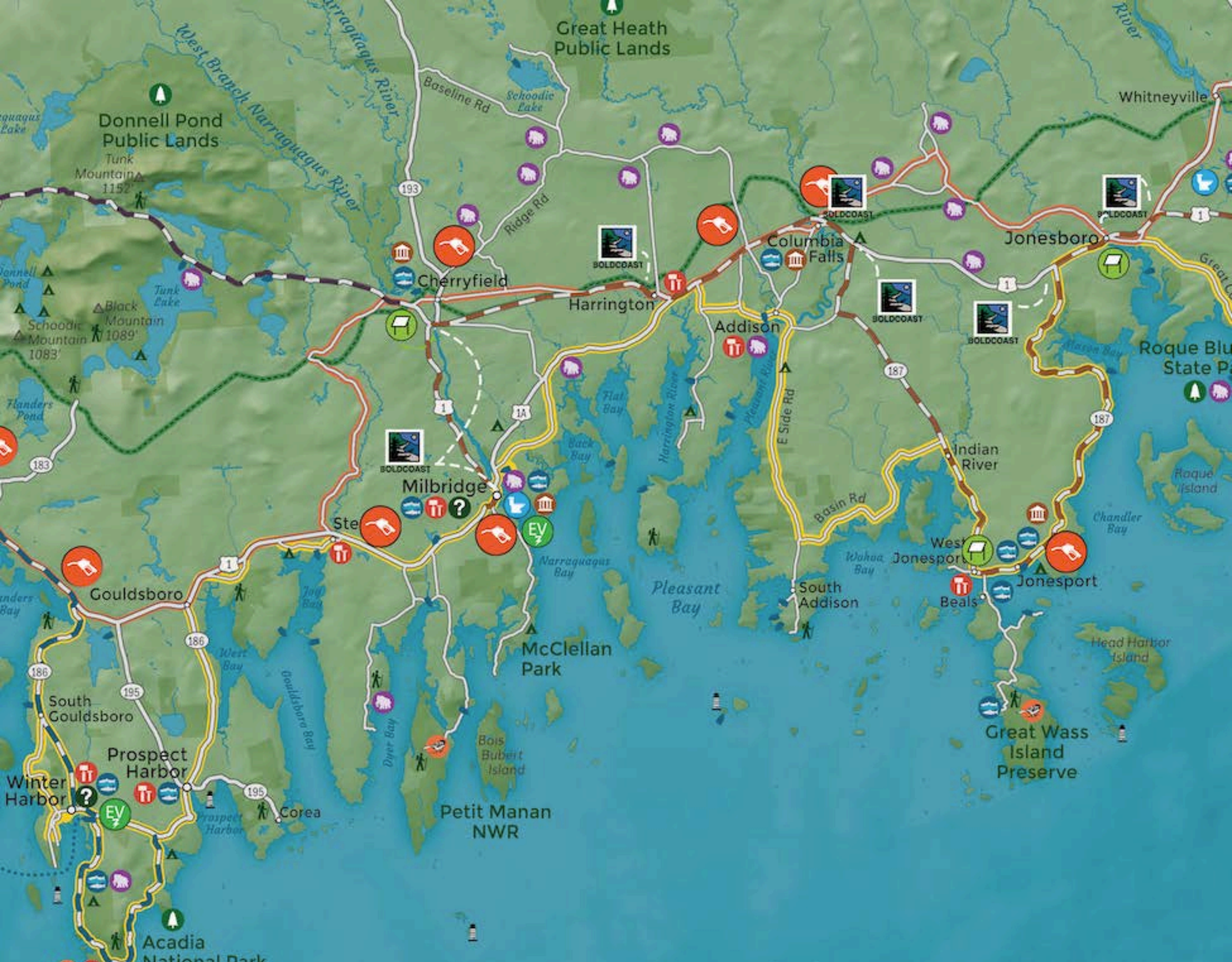
Maine's Scenic Byways Program requires a 6-year Capital Improvement Plan, which inherently includes review of the overall plan and appropriate updates.

Communities achieved significant progress toward strategies and improvements identified as priorities in 2015. New programs and projects developed, opportunities arose and were pursued. Some projects are no longer relevant. Greater understanding of visitor trends and efforts to engage youth and families provide new perspective of opportunities and possibilities. Regional coordination within and outside of the Bold Coast has increased and strengthened. Unexpected funding sources enabled organizations to dive into comprehensive planning and development programs around land conservation, fisheries preservation, broadband and energy infrastructure, heritage resources, marketing and promotion, youth engagement, downtown planning, and more. Both National Scenic Byway and National Heritage Area designations are proposed.

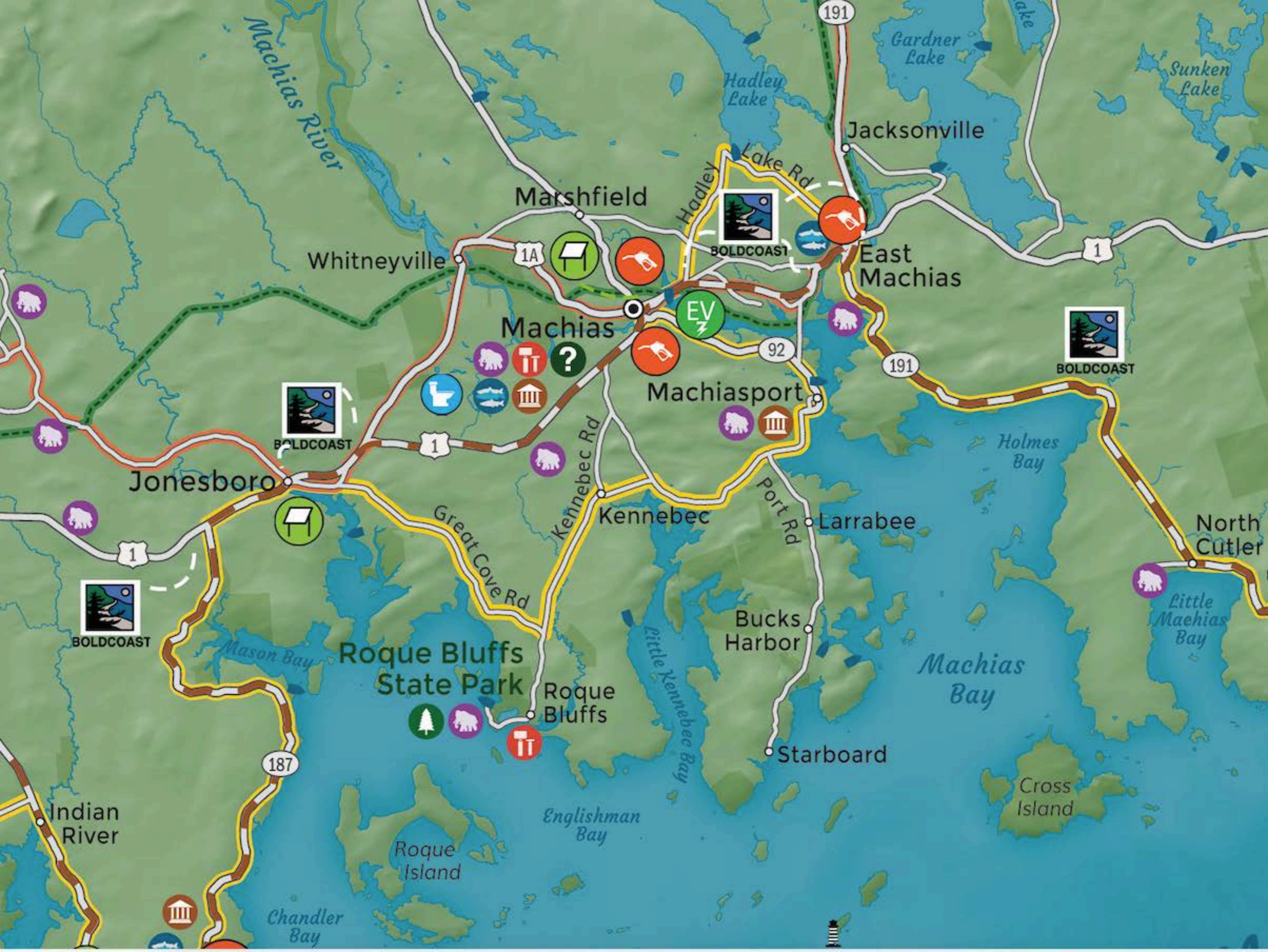
Although the Corridor Management Plan is just 5 years old, cumulative progressions indicate a need to fully review and update the Corridor Management Plan.

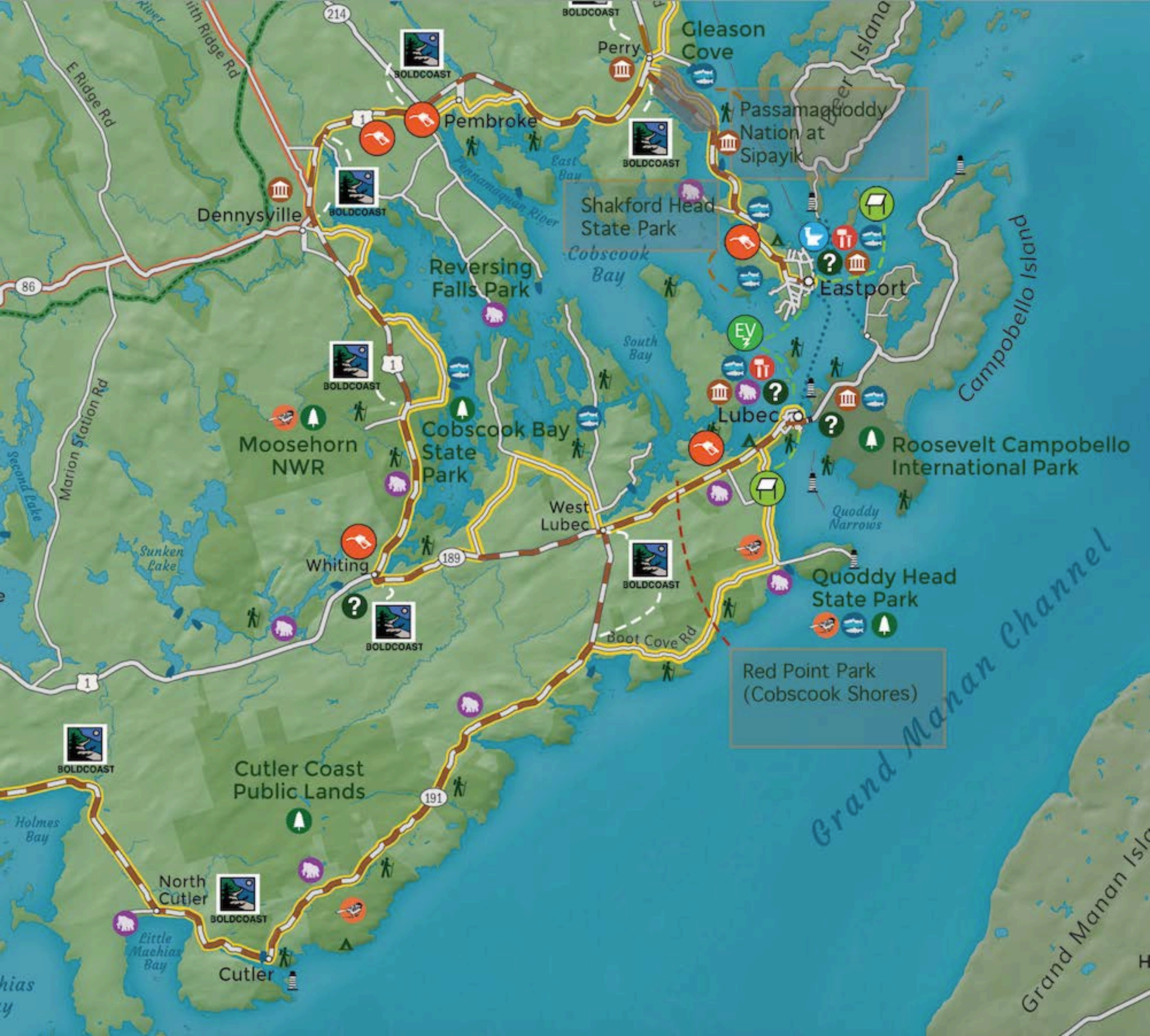
Byway Organization

DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism's (DART) Board of Directors is approximately ½ composed of direct representatives of Bold Coast communities or regional assets across the DownEast Acadia region, which includes 5 Scenic Byways across two counties. The adjacent Schoodic National Scenic Byway coordination committee is actively engaged with Bold Coast Scenic Byway partners, as are Maine DOT and the Maine Office of Tourism. Organizations and communities that value regional collaborations also participate in coordination and management, and promotion of all destination development, management, and promotion initiatives.



DiscoverBoldCoast.com





Dennysville

Pembroke

Shakford Head State Park

Reversing Falls Park

Cobscook Bay

Eastport

Moosehorn NWR

Cobscook Bay State Park

Roosevelt Campobello International Park

Whiting

West Lubec

Quoddy Head State Park

Cutler Coast Public Lands

North Cutler

Cutler

Red Point Park (Cobscook Shores)

Grand Manan Channel

Grand Manan Island

EV Station in Danforth

735 740 3 750

Saint Stephen

St. Stephen, NB has an EV station.

Calais Waterfront Walkway

Calais

Woodland

9

BOLD COAST

127

Alexander

Meddybemps Lake

Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge

Nashs Lake

Howard Lake

Robbinston

Saint Andrews

Meddybemps

191

Round Lake

Pennamaquan River Reservoir

Boyden Lake

UNITED STATES CANADA

Passamaquoddy Bay

Cooper

Dennis River

Smith Ridge Rd

214

Shore Rd

Gleason Cove

Perry

Passamaquoddy Nation at Sipayik

191

Lake Cathance

E Ridge Rd

BOLD COAST

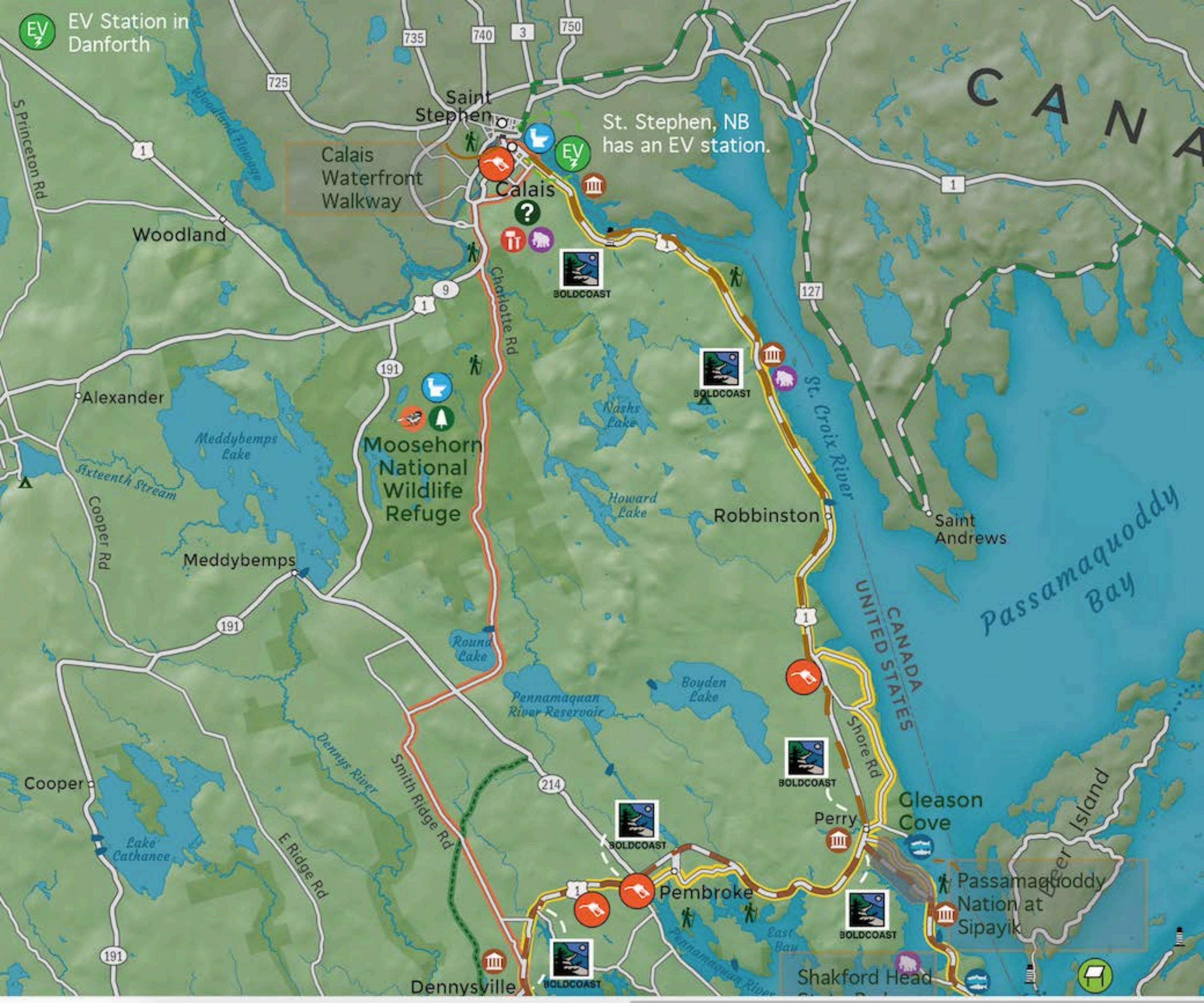
Pembroke

BOLD COAST

Dennysville

BOLD COAST

Shakford Head





STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

Bruce A. Van Note
COMMISSIONER

June 9, 2020

Nicole R. Nason, Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Nason:

RE: Letter of Support for the National Scenic Byway Designation for:

- **Katahdin Woods & Waters Scenic Byway**
- **St. John Valley Cultural Byway and the Fish River Scenic Byway (Combined)**
- **Bold Coast Scenic Byway**
- **Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway**

As the State Coordinator for the Maine Scenic Byways Program, I enthusiastically support efforts to nominate and designate four candidates for National Scenic Byway and All-American Road. I have had the pleasure of working with citizen committees, businesses, and municipal governments from these byways for more than 10-years and feel that this Class of 2020 showcases some of the best that Maine has to offer to visitors and to our own residents.

I would like to begin by saying that support for the byways is an on-going collaboration. Along with my colleague, Larry Johannesman, MaineDOT Landscape Architect, we attend nearly all byway meetings and work on projects that enhance the traveler experience, irrespective of whether the funding for such improvements and amenities are governmental or private foundation funded. We provide the expertise that in many cases would not be available to the byway committees. Not only do we attend these meetings, we have become quite immersed into the member communities, resulting in strong bonds and positive working relationships. With that said, I would like to highlight elements of each of these byways, the importance of which were difficult to capture in the application, particularly I wish to highlight the intense collaboration between groups of mutual interest, which I hope can be part of the consideration.

The **Katahdin Woods & Waters Scenic Byway** is in middle Maine on the edge of the great Maine Woods, the largest contiguous, undeveloped forest land in the eastern US. The byway's assets include wild rivers, mountain and woods trails, canoeing, whitewater rafting, photography, Dark Sky Sanctuary, Plein Air art, and mountain biking. With the collapse of the 100-year old paper industry, people have banded together to create a new economy utilizing

the same forest base for outdoor recreation as was used by the paper companies for its wood supply.

Emerging from these efforts are private development such as Katahdin Areas Trails, which is on a trajectory to become a premier, world-class destination for single-track mountain biking. The year 2020 will add an additional 10-miles of purpose-built bike trails with funds provided through the Northern Border Regional Commission. This includes a bike-only gravity *trail*, the first of its kind in Maine. The facility also boasts 20-miles of groomed, cross country ski trails. All trails are open summer and winter to the public at no charge.

The Butler Conservation Fund acquired 4,500 acres of land that straddles the East Branch of the Penobscot River and which is on the byway. Known as Penobscot River Trails, the facility boasts 16 miles of bicycle paths modeled after and rivaling the quality of the carriage trails of Acadia National Park, all in a remote woods setting where moose, deer, bear, and other woodland denizens reside. It is also home to The Maine Outdoor Education Program, which offers school age children three instructional fitness activities per year, in the fall, winter, and spring. Through this experience of activity in the outdoors the programs seek to highlight the connection between personal health and environmental stewardship. These activities are entirely free to the school group and include instruction from skilled guides, use of recreational equipment (nordic skis, snowshoes, canoes, kayaks, mountain bikes), and additional seasonal gear as needed. The public is welcomed to use the facilities free of charge.

The **St. John Valley Cultural Byway and the Fish River Scenic Byway (Combined)** is a bit of an anomaly in that it will combine two adjoining scenic byways in northern Maine under the common shared intrinsic value of culture. The Fish River is a tributary of the St. John River. The land surrounding the Fish River towns are forested and support a forest products-based economy while the lands along the main stem of the St. John are primarily agricultural supporting a farming-based economy. Even the geography points to a difference in the landscape. These differences, however, belie a basic, very important similarity of the two – a common cultural heritage that even predates the settlement of the Valley by Acadians (1785) and French-Canadians (1786), who are still joined today by common language, mores, and customs. This makes the people of the Valley more similar than different. One only need visit the local cemeteries or look at a Military Veterans Honor Roll to quickly realize that nearly all the surnames are French. Religion, food, language, and customs are born of the same historical experiences.

From discussions with Town Managers from communities along both byways and with leaders of other organizations and businesses, there is agreement that merging the two byways under the common cultural element would accentuate the obvious and will be a positive outcome and a source of pride for Valley residents and broaden the travelers experience in this unique place in the State of Maine.

The **Bold Coast Scenic Byway** is a mystical place with a name that teases the traveler to make the journey. The rocky headlands, coastal islands, quaint harbors and coves with names such as

Carrying Place, blueberry fields, incredible tidal ranges, and some of the darkest skies in Maine, offers a wide array of outdoor recreational opportunities that makes recreation a strong contender as one of the intrinsic qualities being highlighted in its All-American Road application.

The second, equally important, intrinsic quality is historical. If the intent of the historical designation is to highlight not only the most well-known of historical events, such as Civil War battlefields, but also to bring awareness to historical events that contributed to historic timeline of the US in North America, then the Bold Coast is at the forefront of that exploration and settlement. Post-glacial Paleo Indians, Vikings, Basques, French, and English form the timeline for this region. Notable events and activities include Indian petroglyphs carved on rocky outcrops; early exploration of the region by the Vikings; Basque fishermen in the 1500s taking catch to Europe; and French settlement on St. Croix Island in 1604, three-years before Jamestown. Cod fisheries along the Bold Coast established maritime activities that exist today with families dating to the 1700s. Tide Mill Farm was established by a 15-year boy in 1765 on a 5,000 acre grant from King George III and is still in the same family eight generations later. The first naval battle of the Revolutionary War in Machias Bay with the hero of that battle, Jerermiah O'Brien, being memorialized with a Liberty ship named after him. That ship docked at Pier 45 in San Francisco was saved recently from a major fire on the docks by the extraordinary effort of the SF Fire Department.

The importance of the Bold Coast to history is not a singular event but rather its timeline and overall contribution to the emerging US which is worth knowing and preserving.

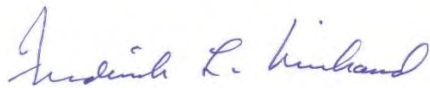
The **Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway** is one of Maine's current three National Scenic Byways in Maine. It received the designation for the recreational values of the region. It now aspires to All-American Road that will include the equally important historical intrinsic quality. As noted in the Bold Coast above, if the history must be an event(s) of such a magnitude that it is universally known, such as Great River Road, that is a difficult standard. However, there are historical events that are very well known to people who share a common experience that may not be as well-known but is nonetheless important to US history. With that being the case, Rangeley is historically significant to the development of sport fishing in America. To know the extent of that, the director of the Heritage Museum was fishing one of the western great rivers with his baseball cap emblazoned with "Rangeley Lakes." A fellow angler from a west coast state commented that Rangeley Lakes was on his "bucket list" of places he wanted to fish before departing. It is that notoriety and recognition of its place in time that makes Rangeley, the name, the brand, and the place, so recognizable amongst sport anglers. Legends such as Cornelia "Fly Rod" Crosby, Maine's first Registered Maine Guide; Carrie Stevens who developed numerous world renown fly patterns, the Rangeley Boat built especially for the waters of the regions, and the wide spread emergence of the sporting camp and Maine guides. All this beginning in 1840 before any of the western states that are now hot destinations for fly fishing

even had names for their states. This is one of the birthplaces of sport fishing and is quite important to Maine's historical timeline.

In closing out this letter of support for the nominees, my mission here is twofold: one, to support the nomination, two, to demonstrate the level of knowledge gained as the Byways Coordinator that could have only occurred through intense, long-term interaction with the byway committees, citizens, and communities. For the better part of the past 15-years, my Landscape Architect colleague, Larry Johannesman and I have gone full immersion in working to make Maine byways a source of local pride and a rewarding traveler experience.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Fred Michaud

Maine Scenic Byways Coordinator



DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism
7 Ames Way Machias, Maine 04654
207-255-0983 DownEastAcadia@gmail.com
DownEastAcadia.com
DownEastAcadiaRegionalTourism.org



TO: National Scenic Byways Program Nomination Review Team

24 April 2020

RE: Designation of the Bold Coast Byway as an All American Road

As an All American Road the Bold Coast Scenic Byway will be the coastal leg of a cultural, historic, and recreational triangle in Maine formed by Acadia National Park, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, and Roosevelt Campobello International Park. In addition to being the easternmost All American Road in the country, it is the US leg of an international geologic, tidal, and recreational corridor that extends from Acadia National Park, through Campobello Island to Fundy National Park and Hopewell Rocks, NB. The current Bold Coast Byway is home to the Nation's earliest sunrise, the easternmost lighthouse in America, the highest tides on the East Coast of the USA, the first French settlement in North America, and the first naval engagement of the American Revolution. The 125 miles of the byway reflect the physical and cultural evolution of New England, French Acadia, Native America, and Down East Maine from the end of the last ice age through the 21st Century. It is still home to the Passamaquoddy Tribe who traded with the French settlement on St Croix Island in 1604 and assisted the Machias citizenry in the capture of the Margareta in June of 1775. Burnham Tavern, where Machias citizens planned to capture the English vessel, is a historic site run by the Daughters of the American Revolution; descendants of some of the original combatants on the colonial side, both colonists and Passamaquoddy, feature an annual festival to commemorate the event.

Designation of the byway as an All American Road will create a cohesive corridor that currently includes 20 sites from the Down East Fisheries Trail, 6 sites from the DownEast Acadia Birding Trail, 8 sites from the Maine Sculpture Trail, 20 sites from the Maine Ice Age Trail and exposure to 211 miles of the Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway. The corridor is home to the Machias Blueberry Festival, the Eastport Salmon and Pirate Festivals, the DownEast Smelt Fry and Birding Festivals, Lubec's Summer Keys music celebration, Eastport's New Year's Eve Sardine and Maple Leaf Drop, and Jonesport's Fourth of July Lobster Boat Races. It's also part of US Bike One and contains the longest continuous off road section of the East Coast Greenway, the Down East Sunrise Trail stretching from Ellsworth to Eastport.

DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism promotes the region as a tourism destination. Our membership includes chambers of commerce, local governments, land trusts, schools, historical societies, and federal and state agencies. We work closely with our neighbors in Maine and New Brunswick and look forward to promoting the Bold Coast Scenic Byway as an All American Road.

Sincerely,

Alvion R. Kimball
Chairman, DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism
(207) 902-2240



TO: National Scenic Byways Nomination Review Team
FROM: Schoodic National Scenic Byway Committee
RE: Bold Coast Scenic Byway national nomination

April 28, 2020

Dear National Scenic Byways Nomination Review Team,

The Schoodic National Scenic Byway Committee (SSBC) pledges its support of the Bold Coast Scenic Byway's application for an All-American Road designation. The Schoodic National Scenic Byway Committee has a longstanding commitment to greater community through conservation programs and recreation opportunities that contribute to the region's economy and quality of life. The Bold Coast Scenic Byway is well recognized in the region as an exceptional traveling experience, including by its neighbors on the Schoodic Scenic Byway Committee. The Schoodic and Bold Coast byways have a shared history, landscape, economy, and heritage, as well as attractions and services, making for a natural partnership.

One example of our existing partnership was establishing the Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway after a shared, 7-day Bike Maine ride, Discover the Bold Coast. West Gouldsboro is the eastern end of the original 2016 Bike Maine ride and the established Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway. The Bold Coast and Schoodic byways both work closely with DownEast Acadia Regional Tourism to coordinate and collaborate on promotion plans and development projects that strengthen each byway as well as their surrounding neighbors.

A distinction as an All-American Road elevates not just the Bold Coast Scenic Byway, but the entire region, including the Schoodic National Scenic Byway. This distinction would encourage visitors to further explore and expand their understanding of the Downeast region of Maine. The Schoodic National Scenic Byway Committee hopes that the Bold Coast Scenic Highway will become an All-American Road, a fitting tribute to the uniqueness of the region, and the treasures of Downeast Maine.

Sincerely,

Barbara Shanahan - Chair, Schoodic National Scenic Byway Consortium; on behalf of the Schoodic National Scenic Byway planning committee

Info@barbaraeshanahan.com

207-479-2699



KEEP
THE
COAST
MAINE

May 14, 2020

Federal Highway Administration
National Scenic Byways Program
Nomination Review Team

Dear National Scenic Byways Nomination Review Team,

I am writing to express Maine Coast Heritage Trust's (MCHT) support for the nomination of the Bold Coast Scenic Byway's designation as an All American Scenic Byway. The Bold coast Scenic Byway extends from Milbridge to Eastport , where MCHT holds more than 7800 acres of conserved land, and traverses two areas of focused conservation: the Bold Coast and Cobscook Bay

The Bold Coast definition used by MCHT differs in scope from the Scenic Byway designation. The stretch of coast from Cutler to Lubec is one of the longest stretches of minimally developed shoreline in the eastern United States. It has fairly been described at one of the last wild places on the east coast of the United States. In addition to dramatic rocky cliffs, conservation values along the Bold Coast include several rare natural communities, habitat for rare and threatened species, and outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Cobscook Bay is widely recognized as one of the most productive and biodiverse marine ecosystems in Maine. The bay supports abundant bird populations, including the highest concentration of nesting bald eagles on the East Coast. Natural resources, including fisheries, are also a mainstay of the local economy.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) is a statewide land trust that conserves and stewards Maine's coast al lands and islands for their renowned scenic beauty, ecological value, outdoor recreational opportunities, and contribution to community well-being. We are currently in our 50th year and have played an active role in conserving lands along the Bold Coast Scenic Byway since the 1980s.

Over the last 30 years, our conservation strategy along the Bold Coast Scenic Byway has been to protect prominently visible headlands, sensitive natural communities, enhance the ecology of the coastline and surrounding lands and provide opportunities for public access - including both trails and access to the water for commercial and recreational use.

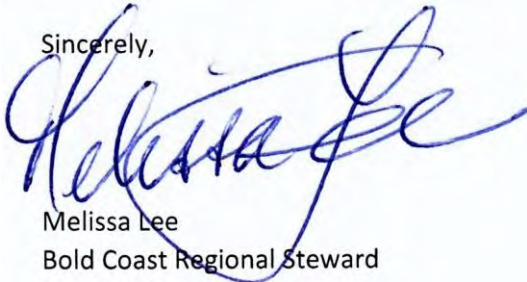
MCHT is continuing its efforts to enhance the connectivity and resilience of natural habitat, promote public enjoyment of natural places, and enhance the benefits of conserved land for local communities. We are also working in coordination with other groups promoting tourism down east. Partnering with the State's Bureau of Parks and Land, the Bold Coast

Celebrating
50 Years
of Leadership

Scenic Byway and other NGOs, we continue to evaluate the potential for expanded conservation along the Bold Coast and find ways to better leverage the existing conserved lands to support recreation and local economic development efforts in ways that protect sensitive natural resources.

MCHT believes that the Bold Coast Scenic Byway and the Bold Coast Bikeway are important an important part of promoting tourism and outdoor recreation in the down east region. Elevating the Bold Coast to a National Scenic Byway will help increase the awareness of the region's world class attributes and draw visitors that will help contribute to the local economy and help improve the quality of life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Melissa Lee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Melissa Lee
Bold Coast Regional Steward
Maine Coast Heritage Trust
1 Bowdoin Mill Island, #201
Topsham, ME 04652
mlee@mcht.org

April 24, 2020

Dear National Scenic Byways Program Nomination Review Team

I am writing to express strong support for the designation of the Bold Coast Scenic Byway as an All American Road. The Bold Coast was designated as a State Scenic Byway in 2011 after a strong community effort to establish the Bold Coast's merit as a unique place in Maine.

The community supports this effort because the Bold Coast is unsurpassed by its natural beauty on the rocky coast of Maine. Traditional fishing villages are nestled within landscapes and seascapes that provides true authentic experiences for travelers looking for the real America, still steeped in the natural resource-based economy.

Maine Sea Grant at the University of Maine is a core partner of the Bold Coast Scenic Byway effort. We and the stakeholders we serve see the Bold Coast as an incredible asset in an area that has faced economic challenges over the last few decades. Residents and small businesses are working hard to elevate place-based tourism to fuel the local economy.

The designation would be a boost to these local efforts and would help unify various local community development initiatives, such as the Downeast Fisheries Trail, the Ice Age Trail and several other regional scenic byways.

Please designate the Bold Coast Scenic Byway as an All American Road.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "N. Springuel".

Natalie Springuel
Marine Extension Associate
Maine Sea Grant



St. Croix Valley



39 Union Street, Calais, Maine 04619

To: National Scenic Byway Nomination Review Committee

The road less traveled is the road everyone should experience. It is the definition of “the way life should be.” Not only does the road transport travelers through nature, but has many stops for observing rich cultures with art exhibitions, historical landmarks and unique museums. The Bold Coast Scenic Byway is a beautiful drive. Maine’s Downeast offers some of the most scenic environments in the world. It showcases the pristine views and cultural diversities of rural living.

The St. Croix Chamber of Commerce considers itself a three nation destination. We share an international border with Canada, and the Native American heritage is strong. The Passamaquoddy (Peskotomuhkati or Pestomuhkati in the Passamaquoddy language) are an American Indian/First Nations people who live in northeastern North America, primarily in Maine, United States, and New Brunswick, Canada. Observers of the Byway get a glimpse of culture as they pass through fishing industries, and the intricate architecture tells its own past. There are several State parks along Cobscook Bay, following the St. Croix River that illustrate coastal living, and the science behind the tide system. Calais is not only an international border to Canada, but also a gateway for visitors to access the Grand Lakes region. Offering services for overnight visitors, and access to incredible outdoor recreation makes for a relaxing experience.

The St. Croix Chamber of Commerce partners with regional tourism initiatives. As Calais is just recently designated as part of the Bold Coast Scenic Byway, and already part of the Bold Coast Scenic Bikeway, we commit to a long term community development partnership as a Byway member.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kara Mitchell
executive director



Downeast Lakes Land Trust
4 Water St.
Grand Lake Stream, ME 04668
Tel/Fax: (207) 796-2100
www.downeastlakes.org

Forests and Lakes – For People – Forever®

National Scenic Byways Program
c/o Nomination Review Team
Federal Highway Administration
200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear National Scenic Byways Program Review Team,

Downeast Lake Land Trust (DLLT) is a 501(c)(3) that contributes to the economic and environmental well-being of the Downeast Lakes region through the exemplary management of our forests and waters. We work with a variety of private, state, and federal organizations that represent the best of the Bold Coast Scenic Byway. All these wonderful organizations leverage the scenic byway designation as an economic development tool by connecting themselves with travelers. All American or National designation could position the Bold Coast Scenic Byway favorably for future infrastructure or marketing funds from private or public sources allowing these organizations, along with DLLT, to create a better future for the Downeast Lakes region.

Currently 62% of Washington County students are on free and reduced lunch, showing the lack of economic stimulus and new business opportunities in our region. Working-aged people are moving away from the Downeast Lakes region due to the lack of employment opportunities throughout Washington and Hancock counties. By positioning our area to become a nationally recognized travel corridor we will be providing future opportunities to the small businesses, entrepreneurs, craftsmen, and artisans that have made the Downeast Lakes region the culturally rich place it is today.

Please accept this letter of support to lengthen the Bold Coast Scenic Byway to include the northeastern gateway city of Calais and create an All American Scenic Byway including the best Maine has to offer in the Downeast, Way Downeast, St. Croix, and Grand Lakes regions.

Sincerely,

David Montague
President and CEO
Downeast Lakes Land Trust



Senator Marianne Moore
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1505

Marianne.Moore@legislature.maine.gov

Health & Human Services Committee
Ranking Member

National Scenic Byways Program Nomination Review Team

RE: Letter of support

To whom it may concern:

As the Maine State Senator for Washington County, I am writing this letter in support for the nomination of the Bold Coast Scenic Byway as a National or All American Scenic Road.

The Bold Coast Scenic Byway currently runs from Milbridge, Maine to Eastport, Maine through one of the most beautiful coastline roads and trails. Extending this byway with the National or All American Scenic Road designation to Calais, Maine would further complete this much acclaimed Bold Coast trail! Calais currently serves as the “head of the tide” and is the Gateway to the East Coast Greenway which runs all the way to Key West, Florida. This national designation would further open the tourist opportunities not only to Downeast Maine but to our sister city – St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada.

I ask your consideration of this important designation for this beautiful region we call home!

Sincerely,

Marianne Moore



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
16 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0016

Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

Bruce A. Van Note
COMMISSIONER

June 10, 2020

Nicole R. Nason, Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Nason:

The Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) is pleased to offer its support for the nominations for designation of three Maine Scenic Byways to National Scenic Byway status and one Maine Scenic Byway and a National Scenic Byway to All-American Road status. The applicants are:

- The Katahdin Woods and Waters Scenic Byway for National Scenic Byway
- The St. John Valley Cultural Byway including the Fish River Scenic Byway for National Scenic Byway (two Maine byways combined under one application)
- Bold Coast Scenic Byway for All-American Road
- Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway for All-American Road.

Each of these applications provide great insight into some of the best of Maine's offerings to the traveling public. The Katahdin Woods and Waters is in north central Maine and features Maine's largest state park, the newly created Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument, and endless recreational opportunities.

The St. John Valley Cultural Byway joins two byways which share a common culture dating back to settlement in 1785 by French Acadians. The Valley inhabitants retained their language and customs with little outside influence due to the Valley's remote location.

The Bold Coast Scenic Byway hugs the easternmost coast line in the United States. Located east of Acadia National Park, the Bold Coast has sparsely populated towns and villages with rock headlands overlooking the lobster rich Gulf of Maine and the Bay of Fundy with the world's highest tides. Some of the earliest exploration and settlement in the United States took place here.

Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway, previously recognized for its outstanding recreational offerings, is seeking added recognition for its historical contribution to the heritage of the United States. Sport fishing began in Rangeley in the late 1850's, well before the creation of western states that are successors to the fishing legacy.

The MaineDOT provides planning and technical assistance to each of these Maine byways. Our staff works with local byway groups to expand tourism opportunities in these areas. Our work with these groups has resulted in amenities that make the Maine experience memorable to our visitors. Working with our Maine Office of Tourism, byways have become recognized as important economic development tools in Maine's rural areas and have been embraced as important destinations for travelers.

These applications offer a small glimpse of these Maine byways offerings. I hope that you have a chance to visit Maine's 2020 nominees for National Scenic Byways.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce A. Van Note". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "V".

Bruce A. Van Note
Commissioner, MaineDOT



Janet T. Mills
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

June 11, 2020

Nicole R. Nason, Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Nason,

I am pleased to offer this letter in strong support of the nominations of three Maine Scenic Byways to become National Scenic Byways as well as two Maine Scenic Byways to become All-American Roads. The applicants seeking the designation of National Scenic Byway are the Katahdin Woods and Waters Scenic Byway, the St. John Valley Cultural Byway, and the Fish River Scenic Byway. The Bold Coast Scenic Byway and the Rangeley Lakes National Scenic Byway are seeking the classification of All-American Road.

Two of my cabinet departments, the Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) and the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) have both publicly and proactively supported these efforts. The Maine Office of Tourism, within DECD, has provided data that show one of the top three reasons tourists come to Maine is to experience our scenic byways. Promoting these scenic drives to National Scenic Byways and All-American Roads will help elevate Maine's status as one of the most popular tourist destinations in the country.

This is also a time when Mainers are exploring parts of our wonderful state they may never have visited in the past. We expect the restrictions required to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 will result in more "staycations" and day trips among Mainers this summer. These scenic byways will certainly be among the places where our citizens will safely enjoy travel during the summer and fall months.

Thank you for your consideration. I hope you look favorably upon these nominations.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills, Governor
State of Maine



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