

June 14, 2022

Danielle Blackshear  
Transportation Specialist  
National Scenic Byways Program  
Federal Highway Administration  
Washington, DC

Dear Ms. Blackshear,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the Battle Road Scenic Byway's application for the 2022 National Scenic Byways Program Grant.

The Battle Road Scenic Byway is a historic and cultural gem. Just miles outside of Boston, the 17-mile roadway connects the towns of Arlington, Lexington, Lincoln, Concord, and Minute Man National Historical Park. In 2012 the Battle Road was designated a scenic byway by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and in 2021 it was designated an All-American Road. Now, the Battle Road Scenic Byway committee and its member entities are preparing for 2025, when the nation will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Patriots Day events that took place on our Byway.

With funding from this grant program, the Battle Road Scenic Byway can be prepared with uniform, modern signage indicating sites along the byway for the 200,000 additional visitors anticipated for the 2025 semiquincentennial anniversary of Patriots Day. Each member entity will use these funds to shore up public safety and tourism infrastructure that will host guests from around the world. Our visitor centers, walking and biking paths, and roadways all need to be prepared to handle the additional visitation, and this grant will make that possible.

The Battle Road Scenic Byway is enjoyed by tourists from all over the country and from around the world. I hope you give it every consideration to be funded through this grant for the 250th anniversary celebration of Patriots Day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Ciccolo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Michelle Ciccolo

State Representative, 15<sup>th</sup> Middlesex District