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April 13, 2020

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

Dear Ms. Blackshear,

On behalf of the Town of Arlington, we are pleased to support this nomination to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration National Scenic Byways Program for the Battle Road Scenic Byway All-America Road designation.

Today Arlington is a lively suburb with a burgeoning local arts scene and beautiful parks and open spaces, including the Minuteman Bikeway, one of the most popular rail trail bike paths in the country. We welcome visitors to our community with great hospitality in our local businesses, restaurants, theaters, and public spaces. But in the Revolutionary period Arlington, incorporated as a town in 1807, was a village known as Menotomy. Paul Revere and William Dawes traversed this area on their way to Concord, and the bloodiest battles of April 19, 1775 took place in our town. The Battle Road begins in Arlington near the site of the Black Horse Tavern where the Committee of Safety frequently met to criticize the oppressive British policies. The Committee of Safety met there on April 18, 1775 to criticize the oppressive British policies, and at 3 a.m. the next day the committee was awakened by the marching of the British troops through town going to Concord to destroy the military stores collected there. In Arlington a number of "witness houses" (houses that were on the Battle Road in 1775) are extant including the Jason Russell House, where bullet holes still show; evidence of the battle where thirteen men were killed, making it the bloodiest fighting on the first day of the American Revolution, April 19, 1775.

In 2006 the Battle Road was designated a scenic byway by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Since then the Battle Road Scenic Byway Committee has overseen the implementation of many of the Byway's 2011 Corridor Management Plan and meets the qualifications for All-America Road designation.

The All-America Road designation from the FHWA's National Scenic Byways program will enshrine the Byway's status as national tourist attraction, and we thank you for accepting our nomination.

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