

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Jason E. Brown; County Administrator

THROUGH: Phillip J. Matson, AICP; Community Development Director

FROM: Brian Freeman, AICP; MPO Staff Director

DATE: October 1, 2021

SUBJECT: Request for Authorization to Submit an Application for Section 5311 Grant for Rural Transit Operating Assistance Funds from the Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan (ARP)

It is requested that the information herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of October 12, 2021.

DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS

Each year, Indian River County receives transit operating assistance under 49 USC Ch. 53, Section 5311 (also known as the Formula Grants for Rural Areas program) through the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). These grant funds have been passed through to the Senior Resource Association (SRA), Indian River County's designated transit service provider.

According to federal regulations, Formula Grants for Rural Areas funds may be used to provide transit service to rural or small urban areas. Such transit service includes fixed route service (GoLine) and demand-response service (Community Coach). GoLine Route 10 provides fixed-route service from the North County Transit Hub to Fellsmere. Route 10 operates six days each week. Service hours are from 6 am to 7 pm on weekdays and from 8 am to 5 pm on Saturdays.

ANALYSIS

FDOT recently announced the availability of Section 5311 transit operating assistance from the Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARP). Based on the recommendation of FDOT, the County is applying for the equivalent of two years operating cost for rural transit service, or \$317,220. No local match is required to receive the CRRSAA or ARP funds.

While Section 5311 funds are federal grant funds, FDOT administers the Section 5311 program within the state of Florida. To apply for Section 5311 funds, the Board of County Commissioners

must adopt the attached resolution (Attachment #1), authorizing staff to submit the attached grant application to FDOT. A copy of the grant application is attached to this staff report (Attachment #2).

The County receives most of its transit funding through the federal Section 5307 (Urban Area) grant program. Because a portion of Indian River County is designated as rural, the County is also eligible to receive transit funding through the Section 5311 (Rural Area) grant program. The provision of rural transit service is consistent with the findings of the MPO's adopted 10-year Transit Development Plan and 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.

FUNDING

No local match is required for the CRRSAA/ARP Act Section 5311 grant. This grant will be used as supplemental funding for existing transit service in rural areas of Indian River County.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners adopt the resolution authorizing the filing of the Section 5311 grant application for CRRSAA and ARP funds.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Authorizing Resolution for the Submission of a Section 5311 (Formula Grants for Rural Areas) application for CRRSAA/ARP funds
2. Section 5311 Grant Application for FY 2020/21
3. Grant Budget Form