

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
Brian Freeman, AICP; MPO Staff Director

FROM: Jon Howard; Senior Transportation Planner

DATE: January 13, 2021

SUBJECT: Approval of a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for a Section 5311 Grant

It is requested that the information herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of January 19, 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).

For FY 2020/21, \$77,356 in Section 5311 funds is allocated to the county. In this case, the grant has a 50% nonfederal match requirement for operating assistance. Matching funds will consist of \$38,678 from the state Public Transportation Block Grant and \$38,678 from the County's normal transit allocation. No additional local funds are necessary.

While Section 5311 funds are federal grant funds, FDOT administers the Section 5311 program within the state of Florida. In order to receive these funds, the BCC must enter into a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with FDOT, a copy of which is attached to this staff report (Attachment 2).

ANALYSIS

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 attached resolution (Attachment 1) authorizes the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners to execute the PTGA for Formula Grants for Rural Areas funds. Upon the Board's adoption of the resolution and the Chairman's execution of the PTGA, County staff will transmit the PTGA to FDOT. Once the PTGA has been executed by FDOT, the funds will be transmitted to the County and passed along to the Senior Resource Association (SRA), the County's public transportation provider, so that the SRA can continue providing fixed route and demand-response transit service to rural areas of the county. The provision of such service is consistent with the findings of the MPO's adopted 10-year Transit Development Plan and 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan.

The grant agreement covers a three-year period and includes funding for the first year (FY 2020/21). Any unexpended funds in the first year will carry over to the remaining two years of the agreement.

FUNDING

Through the three years of the grant agreement, funding in the amount of \$38,678 will be budgeted and available in the General Fund/Community Transportation Coordinator/SRA account. Funding for this expenditure is part of the allocation given to the Senior Resource Association to provide transit service in the county.

Account Number 00111041-088230-54001

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Public Transportation Grant Agreement and adopt the resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign the agreement.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Authorizing Resolution for the Execution of a Public Transportation Grant Agreement
2. FDOT Public Transportation Grant Agreement
3. Grant Budget Form