

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Jason E. Brown; County Administrator

THROUGH: Stan Boling, AICP; Community Development Director
Phillip J. Matson, AICP; MPO Staff Director

FROM: Brian Freeman, AICP; Senior Transportation Planner

DATE: October 4, 2018

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

It is requested that the information herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of October 16, 2018.

DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS

For the past several years, Indian River County has applied for and received mass transit operating assistance from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Those FDOT funds, combined with local funds, serve as the required match towards federal transit operating assistance received under 49 USC Ch. 53, Section 5307 (also known as the Urbanized Area Formula Grant program). Those local, state and federal funds are then passed through to the Senior Resource Association (SRA), Indian River County's designated transit service provider. SRA operates the GoLine (fixed route) and the Community Coach (demand response) transit services.

In 2016, FDOT awarded the County with a Service Development grant to expand GoLine service hours on Saturdays. That grant provided \$500,000 in funding over a two-year period. With those funds, Saturday service hours were increased in December 2016 from six hours (9 am – 3 pm) to nine hours (8 am – 5 pm). Due to the expansion of Saturday service hours, GoLine ridership on Saturdays increased from 82,516 passengers in FY 2016 (before the expansion) to 103,446 passengers in FY 2017 and 128,277 passengers in FY 2018.

At this time, FDOT is providing the County with \$300,000 in additional funding to continue the expanded Saturday hours for a third year. To receive the Service Development Grant funds, the County must enter into a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with FDOT, a copy of which is attached to this staff report (Attachment #2).

As is the case with FDOT's Public Transportation Block Grant program, this grant has a 50% local match requirement. Matching funds are available in the County's normal transit allocation. Like the Block Grant, both the local contribution and the FDOT funds can be combined as a local/state match towards federal operating assistance through the federal Section 5307 program, which is the county's largest funding source for transit.

ANALYSIS

As with the FTA Section 5307 grant program, only public agencies may be designated recipients of Service Development Grant funds, although the funds may be passed through to a nonprofit provider. Under these restrictions, SRA has requested that the Board of County Commissioners apply for state Service Development Grant funds on its behalf.

The attached Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) is an agreement between FDOT and Indian River County specifying the requirements which the County must meet in order to receive Service Development Grant funds. In this case, the funds are to be used to maintain existing levels of service while also expanding service hours on Saturdays.

The attached resolution (Attachment #1) authorizes the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners to execute the PTGA for Service Development Grant 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. The provision of such service is consistent with the findings of the MPO's adopted 10-year Transit Development Plan and 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.

FUNDING

Funding in the amount of \$300,000 is budgeted and available in the General Fund/Community Transportation Coordinator account (Account Number 00111041-088230). These funds are part of the allocation given to the Senior Resource Association to provide transit service in the county.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve the attached Public Transportation Grant Agreement and adopt the attached 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