

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

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**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:** July 31, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Request for Authorization to Submit an Application for 49 USC CH. 53, Section 5311 Transit Operating Assistance Funds for FY 2017/18

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It is requested that the information herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of August 15, 2017.

**DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS**

For the past several years, the County has applied for and received 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 (Section 5311) funds may be used to provide transit service to rural or small urban areas. Such transit service includes fixed route service (GoLine Route #10) and demand-response service (Community Coach), both of which are operated by the Senior Resource Association (SRA).

For FY 2017/18, \$66,689 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 \$33,344.50 from the state Public Transportation Block Grant and \$33,344.50 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. 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).

## **ANALYSIS**

For FY 2017/18, the SRA has requested that the County apply for federal Section 5311 funds on the SRA's behalf so that the SRA can provide for the continuation and expansion of its GoLine/Community Coach fixed route and demand response services in rural areas of Indian River County. 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.

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 Areas) grant program. As indicated in the attached grant application, the total proposed budget amount is \$133,378. Of that amount, the federal portion is \$66,689. The match will consist of \$33,344.50 in state Public Transportation Block Grant funds and \$33,344.50 in local funds. In this case, the County's contribution consists of previously approved general fund monies budgeted specifically for this purpose.

## **FUNDING**

Funding in the amount of \$33,344.50 is budgeted and available in the General Fund / Community Transportation Coordinator account. Funding for this expenditure is 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 adopt the attached resolution authorizing the filing of the attached FY 2017/18 Section 5311 grant application.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Authorizing Resolution for the Submission of a Section 5311 (Formula Grants for Rural Areas) application for FY 2017/18
2. Section 5311 Grant Application for FY 2017/18
3. Grant Budget Form