

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 22, 2021

SUBJECT: Authorization to Submit an Application for a Federal Transit Administration Grant for Capital Assistance (Section 5307)

It is requested that the information herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of November 2, 2021.

DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS

The Federal Transit Administration's Section 5307 (Urban Area Formula Grant) program provides funding assistance towards both the capital and operating costs associated with Indian River County public transportation system, which consists of the GoLine (fixed route) and the Community Coach (demand response) transit services. Both the GoLine and the Community Coach are operated by the Senior Resource Association (SRA), the county's transit service provider.

The Section 5307 program covers most of the capital expenses associated with the GoLine and Community Coach. For capital expenses, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) toll revenue credits are used as a 20% nonfederal soft match (which effectively provides for 100% federal funding of capital expenses). The use of a soft match eliminates the need for the County to provide a cash outlay for capital expenses.

ANALYSIS

According to federal regulations, Section 5307 program grants may be used for the planning, acquisition, construction, improvement, and operating costs of facilities, equipment, and associated capital maintenance items used in public transportation.

Attached to this report is a copy of the County's proposed Section 5307 grant application for FY 2021 (see Attachment #1). Because of the operating assistance being made available to the County through the CARES Act, the FY 2021 application is for capital assistance only. As required by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations, the grant application was prepared using FTA's

Transit Award Management System (TrAMS) software. As it has in the past, the FTA requires grantees to utilize its TrAMS software in the development, submittal, modification, and management of grants.

For the Section 5307 application for FY 2021, the total proposed budget amount is \$2,171,981. Of that amount, the federal portion is \$2,171,981. Through the use of \$542,996 in FDOT toll revenue credits as a soft match for the nonfederal share, no local match is required. The Section 5307 funds will be used for transit hub and stop improvements, bus shelters, shop equipment, computers/software, security equipment, vehicle equipment, and vehicle maintenance.

According to federal grant requirements, the designated recipient (Indian River County) must hold a public hearing to obtain the views of citizens on the proposed grant application. In keeping with that requirement, staff has published a notice of the public hearing.

As a necessary prerequisite for submittal of the applications, the MPO has included the proposed Section 5307 funding in its Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The proposed grant application is also consistent with the MPO's adopted ten-year Transit Development Plan and 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan.

To apply for the FTA funds, the Board of County Commissioners must adopt the attached resolution (Attachment #2), authorizing staff to submit the attached grant applications. The resolution has been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney's Office.

FUNDING

Through this grant, transit capital expenses are 100% funded by FTA with no local contribution. FDOT toll revenue credits are used as a soft match for the nonfederal share. No local match is required.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners adopt the proposed resolution authorizing the filing of the FY 2021 grant application for the Section 5307 program.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Application for Section 5307 Public Transportation Capital Assistance
2. Resolution Authorizing the Filing of Applications for Grant Funding Assistance from the Federal Transit Administration
3. Grant Budget Forms