

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

**FROM:** Brian Freeman, AICP; MPO Staff Director

**DATE:** June 8, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Authorization to Submit Applications for Federal Transit Administration Grants for Capital Assistance (Section 5307) and Bus Replacement (Section 5339)

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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 June 16, 2020.

**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. Indian River County also receives capital funding assistance through FTA's Section 5339 (Bus and Bus Facilities) program.

Together, the Section 5307 and 5339 programs cover 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). In Indian River County, state toll revenue credits are utilized as a soft match to provide the required nonfederal share for the capital expenses associated with the Sections 5307 and 5339 grants. 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. Section 5339 funds are used for the purchase of replacement buses.

Attached to this report are copies of the County's proposed Section 5307 and Section 5339 grant applications for FY 2020. Because of the operating assistance being made available to the County through the CARES Act, the FY 2020 applications are for capital assistance only. As required by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations, the grant applications were 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 2020 (Attachment #1), the total proposed budget amount is \$2,169,322. Of that amount, the federal portion is \$2,169,322. Through the use of \$542,331 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, support vehicles, vehicle maintenance, and bus wraps.

The Section 5339 grant application is for \$465,235 in capital assistance. As with the capital portion of the Section 5307 grant, the nonfederal share consists of toll revenue credits as a soft match in the amount of \$116,309. The Section 5339 funds will be used to purchase replacement buses, in accordance with the Transit Development Plan's vehicle replacement schedule.

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 FY 2020-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The proposed grant application is also consistent with the MPO's adopted ten-year Transit Development Plan and 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.

To apply for the FTA funds, the Board of County Commissioners must adopt the attached resolution (Attachment #3), 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 2020 grant applications for the Section 5307 and Section 5339 programs.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Application for Section 5307 Public Transportation Capital Assistance
2. Application for Section 5339 Bus Replacement Assistance
3. Resolution Authorizing the Filing of Applications for Grant Funding Assistance from the Federal Transit Administration
4. Grant Budget Forms