

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: January 31, 2019

SUBJECT: Approval of a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for Intercounty Bus Service to the Indian River State College Main Campus in Fort Pierce

It is requested that the information herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of February 12, 2019.

DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS

For the past several years, the county has applied for and received transit operating assistance under the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Corridor Grant program. These grant funds have been passed through to the Senior Resource Association (SRA), Indian River County's transit service provider.

FDOT Corridor Grant funds may be used for improving transit operations, such as realigning routes or increasing coverage areas. Since 2009, the County has used FDOT Corridor Grant funding for intercounty service to the Indian River State College (IRSC) Main Campus in Fort Pierce. Since, 2014, this service has been provided through GoLine Route 15, which connects with three other GoLine routes (Routes 4, 6, and 7) at the Intergenerational Center. With a simple transfer, riders coming from the IRSC Mueller Campus, the Main Transit Hub, the Indian River Mall, Vero Beach Highlands, and other locations may travel to the IRSC Main Campus in Fort Pierce. The current grant from FDOT expires on April 30, 2019.

At this time, FDOT has awarded the County a new grant to continue providing hourly service via GoLine Route 15 to the IRSC Main Campus. The grant covers a three year period that lasts until February 28, 2022. Through this grant, intercounty transit service to St. Lucie County is 100% funded by FDOT with no local contribution. FDOT is allocating a \$360,000 over the three year period. In order to receive these 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).

ANALYSIS

The attached resolution (Attachment #1) authorizes the Chairman to execute the PTGA for Corridor Grant funds. Upon the Board's adoption of the resolution and the Chairman's execution of the PTGA, MPO staff will transmit the PTGA to FDOT.

As with the FTA Section 5307 grant program, only public agencies may be designated recipients of state Corridor Grant funds. With respect to the Corridor Grant program, the county receives the grant funds and transfers those funds to the county's Community Transportation Coordinator and transit provider, the Senior Resource Association (SRA). The SRA, in turn, provides the service as directed by the county and as identified in the PTGA. In this case, the funds are to be used to provide intercounty service to the IRSC Main Campus in St. Lucie County.

FUNDING

Through this grant, intercounty transit service to St. Lucie County is 100% funded by FDOT with no local contribution. The grant does not require a local match.

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