

## INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

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

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**TO:** Jason E. Brown; County Administrator

DEPARTMENT HEAD CONCURRENCE:

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Stan Boling, AICP; Community Development Director

**THROUGH:** Phil Matson, AICP; MPO Staff Director

**FROM:** Brian Freeman, AICP; Senior Transportation Planner

**DATE:** May 8, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Request for Authorization to Submit an FY 2017 Grant Application for 49 USC Ch. 53, Section 5307 Mass Transit Capital and Operating Assistance

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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 May 16, 2017.

**DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS**

For the past several years, Indian River County has applied for and received grant funds under 49 USC Ch. 53, Section 5307. Those funds have been 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.

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 mass transportation service. While operating expenses require a 50% nonfederal match, capital expenses require only 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 portion of the Section 5307 grant. The use of a soft match eliminates the need for the County to provide a cash outlay for capital expenses. According to applicable regulations, toll revenue credits may be used as soft match only for the capital portion of a Section 5307 grant. For operating expenses, however, the nonfederal share is provided through a combination of local funds and Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) public transportation grant funds.

## **ANALYSIS**

For FY 2017, the SRA has requested that the County apply for federal Section 5307 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 bus services. As proposed, the grant will allow the Senior Resource Association to leverage local and state funds to continue and expand needed public transportation services within Indian River County.

A copy of the County's proposed FY 2017 Section 5307 grant application is provided in Attachment #1. As required by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations, the attached 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 Section 5307 grants.

As indicated in the attached grant application, the total proposed budget amount is \$5,000,000. Of that amount, the federal portion is \$3,400,000. That includes both capital and operating grant funds.

Overall, the federal share of the proposed budget consists of \$1,800,000 in capital expenditures and \$1,600,000 in operating expenditures. For the nonfederal share of capital expenditures (\$360,000), the County will use toll revenue credits as a soft match. Because a soft match is non-cash, this amount is not included in the project total. For the nonfederal share of operating expenditures (50%), the match will consist of \$800,000 in FDOT grants and \$800,000 from Indian River County. In this case, the County's contribution consists of previously approved general fund monies budgeted specifically for this purpose.

According to Section 5307 grant application 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 this Section 5307 application, the MPO has included the proposed Section 5307 funding in its FY 2017-2021 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 Section 5307 funds, the Board of County Commissioners must adopt the attached resolution (Attachment #2), authorizing staff to submit the attached grant application. The resolution has been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney's Office.

## **FUNDING**

Funding in the amount of \$800,000 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 adopt the attached resolution authorizing the filing of the attached FY 2017 Section 5307 grant application.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Indian River County FY 2017 Grant Application for 49 USC Ch. 53, Section 5307 Mass Transit Capital and Operating Assistance
2. Resolution Authorizing the Filing of a 49 USC Ch. 53, Section 5307 FY 2017 Mass Transit Capital and Operating Assistance Grant Application
3. Grant Budget Forms