

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: March 27, 2020

SUBJECT: Request for Authorization to Submit an Application for Section 5311 Grant for Rural Transit Operating Assistance Funds for FY 2020/21

It is requested that the information herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of April 7, 2020.

DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS

Each year, Indian River County receives 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 funds may be used to provide transit service to rural or small urban areas. Such transit service includes fixed route service (GoLine) and demand-response service (Community Coach).

ANALYSIS

For FY 2020/21, \$77,629 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 \$38,414.50 from the state Public Transportation Block Grant and \$38,414.50 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).

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 Area) grant program. The provision of rural transit service is consistent with the findings of the MPO's adopted 10-year Transit Development Plan and 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.

FUNDING

Funding in the amount of \$38,414.50 will be budgeted and available for FY 20/21 in the General Fund /Community Transportation Coordinator/SRA, Acct# 0011041-088230-54001. 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 resolution authorizing the filing of the FY 2020/21 Section 5311 grant application.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Authorizing Resolution for the Submission of a Section 5311 (Formula Grants for Rural Areas) application for FY 2020/21
2. Section 5311 Grant Application for FY 2020/21
3. Grant Budget Form