

**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:** 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 a Service Development Grant

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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 February 12, 2019.

**DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS**

For the past several years, Indian River County has applied for and received mass transit operating assistance from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Those FDOT funds, combined with local funds, serve as the required match towards federal transit operating assistance received under 49 USC Ch. 53, Section 5307 (also known as the Urbanized Area Formula Grant program). Those local, state and federal funds are then 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.

In September of last year, the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) approved the 2018 Transit Development Plan Major Update. To address some of the increasing costs associated with door-to-door service for ADA clients, the TDP recommended that the County modify the eligibility and certification process for ADA passengers, modify service hours for GoLine Route 11, and make other minor system changes. As modified, Route 11 will function as an “express route” between Sebastian and Vero Beach operating during weekday peak hours (7 am-10 am and 3 pm-7 pm). All existing stops for Route 11 will continue to be served during the new hours.

FDOT has awarded the County with a Service Development grant to implement some of the TDP recommendations for ADA door-to-door service. At this time, FDOT is providing the County with \$450,000 in funding through August 31, 2020. FDOT is programming additional funds for FYs 2020 and 2021, and it is expected that the grant will cover a three-year period in total. To receive the

Service Development Grant 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).

As is the case with FDOT's Public Transportation Block Grant program, this grant has a 50% local match requirement. Matching funds are available in the County's normal transit allocation. Like the Block Grant, both the local contribution and the FDOT funds can be combined as a local/state match towards federal operating assistance through the federal Section 5307 program, which is the county's largest funding source for transit.

### **ANALYSIS**

As with the FTA Section 5307 grant program, only public agencies may be designated recipients of Service Development Grant funds, although the funds may be passed through to a nonprofit provider. Under these restrictions, SRA has requested that the Board of County Commissioners apply for state Service Development Grant funds on its behalf.

The attached Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) is an agreement between FDOT and Indian River County specifying the requirements which the County must meet in order to receive Service Development Grant funds. In this case, the funds are to be used to implement ADA passenger eligibility and certification modifications and to convert Route 11 to an "express route".

### **FUNDING**

For the County's 50% local match, funding in the amount of \$450,000 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 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