

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
Brian Freeman, AICP; MPO Staff Director

FROM: Jon Howard; Senior Transportation Planner

DATE: January 13, 2021

SUBJECT: Approval of a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for a Public Transportation Block Grant

It is requested that the information herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of January 19, 2021.

DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS

Each year, Indian River County receives public transportation operating assistance through the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Public Transportation Block Grant program. The FDOT Block Grant funds are combined with local funds as a match towards federal transit operating assistance received under 49 USC Ch. 53, Section 5307 (also known as the Urbanized Area Formula Grant program) and Section 5311 (also known as the Rural Area Formula Grant program). These state and federal grant funds are 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.

For FY 2020/21, \$597,199 has been allocated through the state Block Grant program to the county. Because the Block Grant has a 50% match requirement, the county is required to provide a local match of \$597,199. As was the case in previous years, matching funds will come from the County's normal transit allocation. Together, the Block Grant funds and local funds will be applied as a local/state match towards \$1,194,398 in federal operating assistance through the Section 5307 program (\$1,117,042) and the Section 5311 program (\$77,356).

Every dollar the county invests in transit operating costs brings a return of three additional dollars in combined federal and state transit operating assistance. In this case, the county's investment of \$597,199 will result in \$1,194,398 in federal and \$597,199 in state transit operating assistance (the combined federal/state amount is \$1,791,597).

ANALYSIS

As with the FTA Section 5307 grant program, only public agencies may be designated recipients of Block Grant funds Pursuant to state regulations, Block Grant funds may not exceed 50% of the nonfederal share of total eligible transit operating expenses. Also, activities funded with Block Grant funds must be consistent with applicable approved local government comprehensive and transit plans. In this case, the provision of transit service is consistent with the MPO's adopted 10-year Transit Development Plan and 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan.

To receive the Block Grant funds, the County must enter into a Public Transportation Grant Agreement with FDOT, a copy of which is attached to this staff report (Attachment #2). The attached resolution (Attachment #1) authorizes the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners to execute the PTGA for Public Transportation Block Grant funds. Upon the Board's adoption of the resolution and the Chairman's execution of the PTGA, County staff will transmit the grant agreement to FDOT. Once the PTGA has been executed by FDOT, the funds will be transmitted to the County and passed along to the Senior Resource Association (SRA), the County's public transportation provider.

The grant agreement covers a three-year period and includes funding for the first year (FY 2020/21). Any unexpended funds in the first year will carry over to the remaining two years of the agreement.

FUNDING

Through the three years of the grant agreement, funding in the amount of \$597,199 will be budgeted and available in the General Fund/Community Transportation Coordinator/SRA account (Account Number 00111041-088230-54001). 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 Public Transportation Grant Agreement and adopt the 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