

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: April 26, 2019

SUBJECT: Authorization to Submit Fiscal Year 2019 Applications for Federal Transit Administration Grants for Capital and Operating Assistance (Section 5307) and Bus Replacement (Section 5339)

It is requested that the information herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of May 7, 2019.

DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS

The Federal Transit Administration's Section 5307 (Urban Area Formula Grant) program provides funding assistance towards both the capital and operating costs associated with Indian River County public transportation system, which consists of the GoLine (fixed route) and the Community Coach (demand response) transit services. Both the GoLine and the Community Coach are operated by the Senior Resource Association (SRA), the county's transit service provider. Indian River County also receives capital funding assistance through FTA's Section 5339 (Bus and Bus Facilities) program. Section 5339 funds are used for the purchase of replacement buses.

Together, the Section 5307 and 5339 programs cover most of the capital expenses associated with the GoLine and Community Coach. In addition, the Section 5307 program covers approximately half of the operating costs of the public transportation system, with the remainder covered by Florida Department of Transportation grants and local funds.

ANALYSIS

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 public transportation. Operating expenses require a 50% nonfederal match, which is provided through a combination of local funds and Florida

Department of Transportation (FDOT) public transportation grant funds. For capital expenses, FDOT toll revenue credits are used as 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 associated with the Sections 5307 and 5339 grants. 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 capital expenses. 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.

Attached to this report are copies of the County's proposed grant applications for the Section 5307 and Section 5339 programs. As required by Federal Transit Administration (FTA) regulations, the grant applications were 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 grants.

For the Section 5307 application for FY 2019 (Attachment #1), the total proposed budget amount is \$5,600,000. Of that amount, the federal portion is \$3,600,000, which consists of \$1,600,000 in capital expenditures and \$2,000,000 in operating expenditures. For the nonfederal share of capital expenditures (\$400,000), the County will use toll revenue credits as a soft match. For the nonfederal share of operating expenditures (50%), the match will consist of \$1,000,000 in FDOT grants and \$1,000,000 from Indian River County. In this case, the County's contribution consists of previously approved general fund monies budgeted specifically for this purpose.

The Section 5339 grant application is for \$400,000 in capital assistance. As with the capital portion of the Section 5307 grant, the nonfederal share consists of toll revenue credits as a soft match in the amount of \$100,000.

According to federal grant 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 the applications, the MPO has included the proposed Section 5307 funding in its FY 2018-2022 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 the FTA funds, the Board of County Commissioners must adopt the attached resolution (Attachment #3), authorizing staff to submit the attached grant applications. The resolution has been reviewed and approved by the County Attorney's Office.

FUNDING

For the local share of the nonfederal match, funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 is budgeted and available in the General Fund / Community Transportation Coordinator account (Account Number 00111041-088230). These funds are part of the \$1,115,800 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 proposed resolution authorizing the filing of the FY 2019 grant applications for the Section 5307 and Section 5339 programs.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Application for Section 5307 Public Transportation Capital and Operating Assistance
2. Application for Section 5339 Bus Replacement Assistance
3. Resolution Authorizing the Filing of Applications for Grant Funding Assistance from the Federal Transit Administration
4. Grant Budget Forms