

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM

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 6, 2017

SUBJECT: Approval of a Public Transportation Supplemental Joint Participation Agreement (SJPA) with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for Section 5339 Public Transportation Capital Funds

It is requested that the information herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of April 18, 2017.

DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS

Funding for most of the capital costs associated with Indian River County's public transportation system comes from the federal Section 5307 grant program. MAP-21, the federal transportation bill enacted by Congress in 2012, created an additional program to provide funding for public transportation capital expenses. That new program is known as Section 5339, or the Bus and Bus Facilities Program.

According to federal regulations, Section 5339 program grants may be used for the purchase of capital items such as buses, shelters, and other equipment. As with capital expenses in the Section 5307 program, the required 20% nonfederal share can be provided through a soft match (which effectively provides for 100% federal funding of capital expenses). In Florida, state toll revenue credits are utilized as a soft match to provide the required nonfederal share. The use of a soft match eliminates the need for the county to provide a cash outlay for capital expenses.

At this time, \$196,717 in Section 5339 funds is being allocated to the county. Those federal funds were originally allocated during FY 2015. While Section 5339 funds are federal grant funds, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has administered the Section 5339 program within the state of Florida through FY 2015. In order to receive these funds, the BCC must enter into a Joint Participation Agreement (JPA) with FDOT, a copy of which is attached to this staff report (Attachment #2).

At the request of FDOT, this SJPA replaces the one approved by the Board on October, 18, 2016. That version of the SJPA included funds from FY 2015 and FY 2016, while the revised SJPA contains funds from only FY 2015. Beginning with the FY 2016 allocation, the County will apply directly to the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) for Section 5339 program funds. At this time, FDOT and FTA are establishing the process for obtaining Section 5339 funding for FY 2016 and later years. County staff expect it will be similar to the Section 5307 application process.

ANALYSIS

The attached resolution (Attachment #1) authorizes the Chairman to execute the JPA for Section 5339 program funds. Upon the Board's adoption of the resolution and the Chairman's execution of the JPA, MPO staff will transmit the JPA to FDOT.

As with the FTA Section 5307 grant program, only public agencies may be designated recipients of Section 5339 funds. With respect to the Section 5339 program, the county receives the grant funds and transfers those funds to the county's Community Transportation Coordinator and transit provider, the Senior Resource Association (SRA). The SRA, in turn, provides the service as directed by the county and as identified in the JPA. In this case, the funds are to be used to purchase buses for the GoLine fixed route public transportation system.

FUNDING

No local match is required for this grant. State toll revenue credits are utilized as a soft match to provide the required nonfederal share. The use of a soft match eliminates the need for the county to provide a cash outlay for capital expenses.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve the attached Public Transportation Supplemental Joint Participation Agreement and adopt the attached resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign the agreement.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Authorizing Resolution for the Execution of a Public Transportation Joint Participation Agreement
2. FDOT Public Transportation Joint Participation Agreement
3. Grant Budget Form