

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of County Commissioners

THROUGH: John A. Titkanich, Jr., County Administrator

PREPARED BY: Mark Vietze, MPO GIS Planner

DATE: August 16, 2024

SUBJECT: Amendment to the Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for Intercounty Bus Service

It is requested that the information herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of August 20, 2024.

DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS

For the past several years, the county has applied for and received transit operating assistance under the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Corridor Grant program. These grant funds have been passed through to the Senior Resource Association (SRA), Indian River County's transit service provider.

FDOT Corridor Grant funds may be used for improving transit operations, such as realigning routes or increasing coverage areas. Since 2009, the County has used FDOT Corridor Grant funding for intercounty service to the Indian River State College (IRSC) Main Campus in Fort Pierce. Since 2014, this service has been provided through GoLine Route 15, which connects with three other GoLine routes (Routes 4, 6, and 7) at the Intergenerational Center. With a simple transfer, riders coming from the IRSC Mueller Campus, the Main Transit Hub, the Indian River Mall, Vero Beach Highlands, and other locations may travel to the IRSC Main Campus in St. Lucie County.

Last year, on September 29, 2023, the County entered into a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with FDOT to continue intercity bus service via GoLine route 15. Through this grant, intercounty transit service to St. Lucie County is 100% funded by FDOT with no local contribution needed. The grant covers a three-year period that lasts until September 30, 2026. The original grant agreement provided \$150,000 to the County for the first year of service. At this time, FDOT has allocated an additional \$150,000 for the second year (See Attachment #1). The third-year funds will be provided next year.

ANALYSIS

The attached resolution (Attachment #2) authorizes the Chairman to execute the PTGA Amendment for Corridor Grant funds. Upon the Board's adoption of the resolution and the Chairman's execution of the PTGA Amendment, MPO staff will transmit the Amendment to FDOT.

As with the FTA Section 5307 grant program, only public agencies may be designated recipients of state Corridor Grant funds. With respect to the Corridor Grant program, the county receives the grant funds and transfers those funds to the county's Community Transportation Coordinator and transit service provider, the Senior Resource Association (SRA). The SRA, in turn, provides the service as directed by the county and as identified in the PTGA. In this case, the funds are to be used to provide intercounty service to the IRSC Main Campus in St. Lucie County.

FUNDING

No funding is required for this item, as the intercounty transit service is fully grant funded and no local match is required.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve the attached Amendment to the Public Transportation Grant Agreement and adopt the proposed resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign the agreement.

ATTACHMENTS

1. FDOT Public Transportation Amendment to the Public Transportation Grant Agreement
2. Authorizing Resolution
3. Grant Budget Form