

**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:** Phillip J. Matson, AICP; Community Development Director

**FROM:** Brian Freeman, AICP; MPO Staff Director

**DATE:** May 22, 2020

**SUBJECT:** Approval of a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for a CARES Act Section 5311 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 June 2, 2020.

**DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS**

Each year, Indian River County receives transit operating assistance under 49 USC Ch. 53, Section 5311 (also known as the Formula Grants for Rural Areas program) through the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). These grant funds have been passed through to the Senior Resource Association (SRA), Indian River County's designated transit service provider.

As a result of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was recently passed by Congress and signed by President Trump, Indian River County is receiving \$246,951 in transit operating assistance through the Section 5311 (Rural Areas) program. No local match is required to receive the CARES Act funds.

While Section 5311 funds are federal grant funds, FDOT administers the Section 5311 program within the state of Florida. In order to receive these funds, the BCC must enter into a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with FDOT, a copy of which is attached to this staff report (Attachment 2).

In addition to the CARES Act Section 5311 funds, Indian River County has also been awarded \$6.3 million in CARES Act funds through the Section 5307 (Urban Areas) program. The Section 5307 funds will be presented to the BCC for approval at the June 16, 2020 meeting.

## **ANALYSIS**

According to federal regulations, Section 5311 funds may be used to provide transit service to rural or small urban areas. Such transit service includes fixed route service to Fellsmere (GoLine Route 10) and demand-response service (Community Coach).

The attached resolution (Attachment 1) authorizes the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners to execute the PTGA for Formula Grants for Rural Areas funds. Upon the Board's adoption of the resolution and the Chairman's execution of the PTGA, County staff will transmit the PTGA 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, so that the SRA can continue providing fixed route and demand-response transit service to rural areas of the county. The provision of such service is consistent with the findings of the MPO's adopted 10-year Transit Development Plan and 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan.

## **FUNDING**

No local match is required for the CARES Act Section 5311 grant. This grant will be used as supplemental funding for existing transit service in rural areas of Indian River 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