

**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  
Brian Freeman, AICP; MPO Staff Director

**FROM:** Jon Howard; Senior Transportation Planner

**DATE:** April 12, 2022

**SUBJECT:** Approval of a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) Amendment with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for a 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 April 19, 2022.

**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). Section 5311 funds are used to provide transit service to rural or small urban areas. Such transit service includes fixed-route service (GoLine) and demand-response service (Community Coach).

The current grant agreement was approved in FY 20/21 and provided \$79,305 in funding assistance. For FY 21/22, FDOT has allocated an additional \$79,305 to the County. A 50% nonfederal match is required for operating assistance. Matching funds will consist of \$39,652.50 from the state Public Transportation Block Grant and \$39,652.50 from the County's normal transit allocation. No additional local funds are necessary.

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 amend the existing Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with FDOT, a copy of which is attached to this staff report (Attachment 2).

## **ANALYSIS**

The County receives most of its transit funding through the federal Section 5307 (Urban Area) grant program. Because a portion of Indian River County is designated as rural, the County is also eligible to receive transit funding through the Section 5311 (Rural Area) grant program.

The attached resolution (Attachment 1) authorizes the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners to execute the PTGA Amendment for Formula Grants for Rural Areas funds. Upon the Board's adoption of the resolution and the Chairman's execution of the Amendment, County staff will transmit it to FDOT. Once the PTGA Amendment 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 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan.

The existing grant agreement covers a three-year period and includes funding for the first year. This amendment represents the second year of funding. Any unexpended funds will carry over to the remaining years of the agreement. The grant agreement expires on June 30, 2024. At that time, it will be replaced by a new grant agreement.

## **FUNDING**

Through June 30, 2024, funding in the amount of \$79,305 will be budgeted and available in the General Fund / Community Transportation Coordinator account. Funding for this expenditure is part of the allocation given to the Senior Resource Association to provide transit service in the county.

Account Number 00111041-088230

## **RECOMMENDATION**

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

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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