

**INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

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**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

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

**PREPARED BY:** Mark Vietze, MPO GIS Planner

**DATE:** August 16, 2023

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

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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 August 29, 2023.

**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. The current grant from FDOT expires on September 30, 2023.

Recently, FDOT awarded the County a new grant to continue providing hourly service via GoLine Route 15 to the IRSC Main Campus. The grant covers a three-year period that lasts until September 30, 2026. Through this grant, intercounty transit service to St. Lucie County is 100% funded by FDOT with no local contribution needed.

At this time, FDOT is allocating \$150,000 for the first year. Funding for the second and third years will be provided later through supplemental agreements. In order to receive the first year funds, the County must enter into a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with FDOT, a copy of which is attached to this staff report (Attachment #1).

## **ANALYSIS**

The attached resolution (Attachment #2) authorizes the Chairman to execute the PTGA for Corridor Grant funds. Upon the Board's adoption of the resolution and the Chairman's execution of the PTGA, MPO staff will transmit the PTGA 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 Public Transportation Grant Agreement and adopt the proposed resolution authorizing the Chairman to sign the agreement.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

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