

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Board of County Commissioners

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

PREPARED BY: Mark Vietze, MPO GIS Planner

DATE: January 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Approval of a Public Transportation Grant Agreement (PTGA) with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) for a Public Transportation Block Grant

It is requested that the information herein presented be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of January 23, 2024.

DESCRIPTION & CONDITIONS

Each year, Indian River County receives public transportation operating assistance through the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Public Transportation Block Grant program. The FDOT Block Grant funds are combined with local funds as a match towards federal transit operating assistance received under 49 USC Ch. 53, Section 5307 (also known as the Urbanized Area Formula Grant program) and Section 5311 (also known as the Rural Area Formula Grant program). These state and federal grant funds are passed through to the Senior Resource Association (SRA), Indian River County's designated transit service provider. SRA operates the GoLine (fixed-route) and the Community Coach (demand response) transit services.

For FY 2023/24, \$729,905 has been allocated through the state Block Grant program to the county. Because the Block Grant has a 50% match requirement, the county is required to provide a local match of \$729,905. As was the case in previous years, matching funds will come from the County's normal transit allocation. Together, the Block Grant funds and local funds (\$1,459,810) will be applied as a local/state match towards federal operating assistance through the Section 5307 program.

ANALYSIS

As with the FTA Section 5307 grant program, only public agencies may be designated recipients of Block Grant funds pursuant to state regulations. Also, activities funded with Block Grant funds must be consistent with applicable approved local government comprehensive and transit plans. In this case, the provision of transit service is consistent with the MPO's adopted 10-year Transit Development Plan and 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan. To receive the Block Grant funds,

the County must enter into a Public Transportation Grant Agreement with FDOT, a copy of which is attached to this staff report (Attachment #2). The attached resolution (Attachment #1) authorizes the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners to execute the PTGA for Public Transportation Block Grant funds. Upon the Board's adoption of the resolution and the Chairman's execution of the PTGA, County staff will transmit the grant agreement 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.

The grant agreement covers a three-year period and includes funding for the first year (FY 2023/24). Any unexpended funds in the first year will carry over to the remaining two years of the agreement.

FUNDING

Funding, in the amount of \$729,905, will be budgeted and available in the General Fund/Community Transportation Coordinator account (Account Number 00111041-088230) once the rollover budget amendment has been approved by the Board and posted. These funds are part of the allocation given to the Senior Resource Association to provide transit service in the 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