

INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of County Commissioners

Through: John A. Titkanich, Jr., ICMA-CM, AICP
County Administrator

Prepared By: Brian Freeman, AICP
MPO Staff Director

Date: September 21, 2023

Subject: Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update

It is requested that the information presented herein be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of October 3, 2023.

SUMMARY

According to state and federal regulations, Indian River County, in conjunction with the Indian River County MPO, must prepare and adopt a Major Update of its Transit Development Plan (TDP) in October of 2023. Adoption of a TDP is required in order to receive grant funding under the state's Public Transportation Block Grant (PTBG) program. In recent years, that program has provided over \$600,000 annually in operating assistance to Indian River County.

The TDP major update was prepared by the University of South Florida's Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR). Over the past year, CUTR has undertaken numerous TDP development activities. Those activities include drafting a public outreach plan, analyzing demographic trends within the community, conducting a peer trend analysis of the county's fixed route (GoLine) and demand response (Community Coach) transit systems, and identifying goals and objectives.

As part of the TDP development process, CUTR has also conducted extensive public outreach. During the months of March and April, CUTR interviewed GoLine passengers while riding on the bus, and an online survey was also conducted. Combined together, over 1,400 responses were received.

Using the inputs from the transit system analysis and public engagement, the consultants evaluated a number of service enhancements, including the extension weekday service hours, the expansion of Saturday service hours, the introduction of transit service on Sundays, and

increasing weekday frequency of service to 30 minutes on top-performing routes.

Based on the results of the service alternatives evaluations, CUTR has prepared a ten-year implementation program along with a financial plan. The ten-year program includes:

- Extending weekday service hours to 9 pm (two additional hours) in FY 2024/25.
- Expanding Saturday service hours to 7 am to 7 pm (three additional hours) in FY 2026/27.
- Introducing Sunday service (8 am to 5 pm) in FY 2028/29.

For each of these service improvements, the ten-year program anticipates funding assistance from FDOT through a Service Development grant.

To address the transit system's capital needs, the ten-year program includes an upgrade to the North County Hub, an electric vehicle pilot project (no more than three vehicles), additional phases of bus shelters and other bus stop amenities, and ongoing replacement of buses and other equipment based on FTA useful life requirements. The capital program is based on projected federal and state revenues during the next ten years.

In addition to the improvements discussed above, the TDP also identifies several unfunded needs, will require the identification of new funding sources. For operating, the primary unfunded need is increasing service frequency from 60 minutes to 30 minutes on weekdays, which would involve a significant increase in operating expenses. For the capital program, the most significant unfunded need is the conversion of the transit fleet from diesel to electric vehicles, which could be funded through a discretionary

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Board of County Commissioners approve the Transit Development Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Transit Development Plan – Major Update Draft Final Report - (Report available for viewing www.indianriver.go or at the Board of County Commissioners Office).