

## INDIAN RIVER COUNTY, FLORIDA

### MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

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

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

**DATE:** April 10, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Request for Authorization to Submit an Application for Section 5311 Grant for Rural Transit Operating Assistance Funds

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It is requested that the information presented herein be given formal consideration by the Board of County Commissioners at its regular meeting of April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024.

#### **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.

According to federal regulations, Formula Grants for Rural Areas funds may be 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).

#### **ANALYSIS**

At this time FDOT has advised the County to apply for one year's worth of funding for available funds left over from FY 2022/23. Therefore, the grant application is for \$180,000 in Section 5311 funds. In this case, the grant has a 50% nonfederal match requirement for operating assistance. Matching funds will consist of \$90,000 from the state Public Transportation Block Grant and \$90,000 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. To apply for Section 5311 funds, the Board of County Commissioners must adopt the attached resolution (Attachment #1), authorizing staff to submit the attached grant application to FDOT. A copy of the grant application is attached to this staff report (Attachment #2).

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 provision of rural transit service is consistent with the findings of the MPO's adopted 10-year Transit Development Plan and 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan.

### **FUNDING**

Funding in the amount of \$90,000 is budgeted and available for FY 23/24 in General Fund/Community Transportation Coordinator/SRA account, number 00111041-088230-54001. Funding for this expenditure is 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 adopt the resolution authorizing the filing of the Section 5311 grant application.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Authorizing Resolution for the Submission of a Section 5311 (Formula Grants for Rural Areas) application
2. Section 5311 Grant Application
3. Grant Budget Form