

Legislation Text

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Resolution for 49 U.S. Code Chapter 53, Section 5311 Grant Applications (B)

This item is a request for the City Commission to adopt a Resolution required in support of the Regional Transit System (RTS) application for a Section 5311 grant for capital assistance to purchase replacement paratransit vans for provision of rural transportation services to the citizens of Gainesville and Alachua County, and for the Interim City Manager or designee to execute related Public Transportation Grant Agreement(s) with the Florida Department of Transportation.

In October 2021, federal funds were made available through the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) 49 U.S. Code Chapter 53, Section 5311 for Formula Grants for Rural Areas Operating Assistance to provide transportation assistance for rural service that operates in east Gainesville and adjacent rural areas. RTS has applied for to this FDOT program for capital funds to assist with the purchase of two replacement paratransit vans. This is a non-competitive grant application process administered by FDOT, providing assistance throughout the state with federal funding to support specific, identified prioritized transportation needs.

Grant applications were submitted in December 2021, and FDOT requires that applying agencies' adopted resolutions are provided no later than February for inclusion with submitted federal grant packages. If funded, the grant will provide much-needed capital assistance, allowing RTS to purchase two replacement vans for paratransit service for those living outside the City limits who need to travel for work, health care, and other activities within the City of Gainesville.

Strategic Connection: Goal 3: A Great Place to Live & Experience by providing affordable transit services.

Funds are allocated in the Department of Transportation and Mobility, RTS FY22 budget to provide the required matches if the grant is awarded. RTS has requested \$160,152 in capital assistance in the grant application, and will use its capital replacement funds for the required 20% match.

The City Commission adopt the Resolution.