

TREASURE COAST REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members AGENDA ITEM 10

From: Staff

Date: June 17, 2016 Council Meeting

Subject: Transit-Oriented Development Pilot Program Agreement with South Florida Regional Transportation Authority

Introduction

The purpose of this item is to request Council approval to execute an agreement with the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (SFRTA) to provide professional services relating to transportation and land use planning. The proposed agreement is in support of regional mobility and transit development pursuant to a transit-oriented development (TOD) planning grant from the Federal Transit Authority (FTA).

Overview and Analysis

For more than a decade, Council has been assisting the SFRTA, Florida Department of Transportation, agencies, and local governments with planning and technical assistance in support of the expansion of Tri-Rail service onto the Florida East Coast rail corridor. The Tri-Rail Coastal Link (TRCL) project is currently anticipated to include up to twenty-five stations between Miami and Jupiter. Transit-supportive or TOD land use patterns around these stations and along the corridor are critical to the success of passenger rail service. This land use/transit relationship has become increasingly important in the FTA funding process. To increase TOD planning along passenger rail corridors, the FTA recently awarded a series of planning grants to several regions. Working in collaboration with Council and the South Florida Regional Council (SFRC), FTA recently awarded a \$1.25 million grant in support of TOD planning and analysis along the planned TRCL corridor. All grant funded activities would begin in the summer of 2016 and be completed within two years. The anticipated scope of work includes a collaborative effort by both regional planning councils in the following areas:

Station-Area Work: Council has been requested to lead the effort for station area planning, including the development of station area master plans, transit-supportive comprehensive plan policies and land development regulations, and the development of form-based codes. SFRC will play a support role for the station-area planning work. Local governments seeking station area planning assistance would be required to provide matching funds as required by FTA.

Corridor-Related Work: SFRC will lead the effort for corridor-length analyses, including assessments of water/sewer infrastructure capacity, affordable housing, bicycle/pedestrian

planning, opportunities to develop a TOD business fund, and community engagement. Council would play a support role to assist SFRC in these planning tasks.

To enable the FTA grant work to be carried out, SFRTA has requested a new interagency agreement with Council to allocate \$1.2 million in grant funds to complete the work, with \$860,000 available for the Council-led station area planning work and \$340,000 for the SFRC-led activities. The remaining portion of grant funding will be allocated to SFRTA for grant administration.

Conclusion

Improving the relationship between land use patterns and transportation planning will improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the transportation network, create better opportunities for multi-modal mobility; reduce non-renewable energy usage and air quality impacts; and enhance public health and quality of life throughout the region. Additional funding provided under the agreement will allow Council to assist in the advancement of these goals, enhance the transit-supportive land use and policy framework, provide direct assistance to local governments, and help implement Council's Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

Recommendation

Council should authorize the Executive Director, in consultation with Council's attorney, to execute the final interagency agreement with the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority and with the South Florida Regional Council.