



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 2563

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Ride Solution is the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for Putnam County. This project would reopen flex-routes previously funded under Ch 427 through human services funding coordination. Routes began in 1988 & were closed in Dec 2023 due to numerous factors impacting rural transit providers across the state. Prior to closure, approximately 2,042 unique citizens were being served. Appx only 1/4 of these can now access service. This project would return services to over 1,300 citizens.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted? Yes

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

| Type of Funding | Amount |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Operating | 1,293,000 |
| Fixed Capital Outlay | 0 |
| Total State Funds Requested | 1,293,000 |

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

| Type of Funding | Amount | Percentage |
|--|------------------|-------------|
| Total State Funds Requested (from question #6) | 1,293,000 | 100% |
| Matching Funds | | |
| Federal | 0 | 0% |
| State (excluding the amount of this request) | 0 | 0% |
| Local | 0 | 0% |
| Other | 0 | 0% |
| Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 | 1,293,000 | 100% |

8. Has this project previously received state funding? No

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

| Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY) | Amount | | Specific Appropriation # | Vetoed |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| | Recurring | Nonrecurring | | |
| | | | | |

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested? No

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects



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10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

| Spending Category | Description | Amount |
|--|---|------------------|
| Administrative Costs: | | |
| Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits | | 0 |
| Other Salary and Benefits | Administrative oversight | 38,790 |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other | Administrative office supplies | 3,879 |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study | | 0 |
| Operational Costs | | |
| Salary and Benefits | Driver, mechanic, bus washer, intake, and dispatch staff salaries and benefits | 594,780 |
| Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other | Fuel, oil, tires, vehicle parts, towing, driver uniforms, physicals, office supplies, telephone, workers comp, property and liability insurance, vehicle insurance, vehicle tags, advertising, printing, postage and shipping, misc | 655,551 |
| Consultants/Contracted Services/Study | | 0 |
| Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation: | | |
| Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering | | 0 |
| Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6) | | 1,293,000 |

13. Program Performance

a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

Ride Solution is the Community Transportation Coordinator (CTC) for Putnam County. This project would reopen flex-routes previously funded under Ch 427 through human services funding coordination. Routes began in 1988 & were closed in Dec 2023 due to numerous factors impacting rural transit providers across the state. Prior to closure, approximately 2,042 unique citizens were being served. Appx only 1/4 of these can now access service. This project would return services to over 1,300 citizens.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?



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With this funding, we will be able to reopen the Palatka City Route, both Cross County Express Routes, and the South Putnam Feeder route on a five day a week basis, with the exception of Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Prior to the route closures, Ride Solution's passenger mile cost was about half of Uber's, due to the multiloading efficiencies that the route format provided.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Palatka City Route, a 10 mile loop route in Palatka, runs on 1 hour headways, while Cross County Express, connecting Interlachen, Palatka, and Satsuma, run on 3 hour headways, as does the South Putnam Feeder that connects Satsuma, Crescent City and Welatka. We estimate that the reopened routes will serve an additional 1300 citizens, allowing them to access jobs, health care, education and etc.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

The Center for Urban Transportation Research (CUTR) has consistently estimated Florida's Transportation Disadvantaged population at 35-40% of the population and Putnam's at over 60%. In 2023, the year our flex-routes closed, Ride Solution served 2,042 documented clients. This year, the demand response service that replaced the flex routes is only service 670 passengers. We anticipate that reopening the routes will return transit service to the 1300+ passengers that lost service when the routes we closed.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

The Putnam flex-routes are utilized by the general public for all manner of daily activities including accessing education facilities, employment, health care, and shopping. We will track the number of unduplicated riders, their passenger miles and trips, and their trips to various destinations.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

We would suggest removing the funding if the reopening of the routes does not provide a significant reduction in the cost per passenger mile and the return of 1300 passengers within 3 years of the initial reopening of the routes.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster? No

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:



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b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name Last Name

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number Ext.

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name Last Name

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number Ext.

19. Lobbyist Contact Information

a. Name



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b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.