



*Florida Department of Transportation*

**RON DESANTIS**  
GOVERNOR

420 W. Landstreet Rd.  
Orlando, FL 32824

**JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.**  
SECRETARY

September 13, 2024

Tom Duncan  
Transit Administrator  
City of Ocala (SunTran)  
201 SE 3rd Street  
Ocala, FL 34471

**Re: State Fiscal Year 2025/2026 – Public Transit Service Development Program Intent to Award Letter**

Dear Mr. Duncan:

This notice is to advise you that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District Five Grant Review Team has completed the grant application review and ranking process for FY 2025/2026 Public Transit Service Development Program. The Team found SunTran’s request eligible for assistance. Please note, final approval of SunTran’s grant award will be determined by FDOT Central Office upon further processing. Below is an overview of SunTran’s proposed Public Transit Service Development Program project and the anticipated amounts that will be awarded:

Item Description:	Total Project Request			
Downtown Circulator (Trolley)	\$229,144.00			
Item Description:	Total Project Award	Federal	State	Local
Downtown Circulator (Trolley)	\$229,144.00	\$0	\$114,572.00	\$114,572.00
<b>Project Summary:</b>				
<p>The project will support an innovative fixed-route downtown circulator service's initial marketing efforts and operating expenses. The need for a Downtown Circulator Service was identified during the public engagement for the City's 2035 Vision Plan and Midtown Master Plan and again as part of the FY2018-FY2027 Transit Development Plan (TDP) Major Update. This proposed service is designed to traverse the downtown core, improve mobility for residents and visitors, and increase the exposure of downtown businesses. It also seeks to enhance connections between existing core routes, namely the Orange, Blue, Green, and Purple Routes and connections to the downtown transfer station. The primary activity centers along the proposed route include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Downtown Square</li> <li>2. Tourist Development Council</li> <li>3. Marion County Courthouse</li> <li>4. Post Office</li> <li>5. Advent Health Ocala Hospital</li> <li>6. Ocala Regional Medical Center</li> <li>7. Downtown Market &amp; Chamber &amp; Economic Partnership</li> <li>8. City Hall/Citizen’s Circle</li> <li>9. Tusawilla Park</li> <li>10. Reilly Arts Center</li> </ol>				

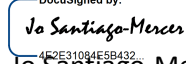
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11. Downtown Transfer Station

SunTran will need to indicate how the tentative operating award will be distributed within the budget categories identified in Exhibit B (Attachment 1).

Thank you for participating in this competitive grant application process. If you have any questions, please contact me at (321) 319-8175 or email [jo.santiago-mercero@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:jo.santiago-mercero@dot.state.fl.us).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
402E31084E5B432  
Jo Santiago-Mercer, C.P.M.  
Passenger Operations Supervisor  
FDOT District Five

c: Carlos Colon, Transit Project Coordinator – FDOT District Five

Attachment 1– PTGA, Exhibit B