

5307/5311 Carroll County Transit Contract FAQs for FY23

The Transit contract between Three Rivers Regional Commission (TRRC) and Carroll County is up for renewal for fiscal year 2023 (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023).

Summary

Most of the contract is the same as last year's contract. Up to this point, Carroll County has been utilizing 5311 transit funds which can only be used in rural areas. Carroll County is required to use 5307 funds for areas of the County with denser populations. References to the 5307 transit funding have been added to the FY23 contract. This means funding for transit will come from a combination of two grant sources instead of one. The 5307 operational funds require a larger local match than the 5311 funds. Both grants will support the operation and administration of the Carroll County transit system.

How does this impact transit riders? The same buses will be used, scheduling rides will remain the same, riders should see no change in the service.

What are 5307 funds? The FTA allocates funds to cities and counties based on population density. About 22% of Carroll County qualifies for 5307 funds. Carroll County's allocation of 5307 funds from FY18 was \$85,471. The FY22 allocation is \$115,501. Funds can be "banked" for up to 5 years.

How can we use the 5307 funds? Eligible activities include transit operating assistance, capital investments in bus (and bus-related activities), and planning. FTA requires recipients to go through a qualification process before receiving funds. TRRC should complete the qualification process in the summer of 2022 and be able to receive 5307 funds to support the Carroll County transit system.

What are the match requirements and budget? Both the 5311 and 5307 programs require local matching funds. The combined Carroll County match for both of these programs totals \$70,000 for FY23. The estimated budget for the combined 5311 and 5307 transit program in Carroll County is \$425,890.

What happens if we decide not to use 5307 funds? The FTA is clear that 5311 funds may be used only to assist the rural portion of the County. The GDOT has already decreased 5311 funding for other counties when they have not used 5307 funds. Getting into compliance with the 5311 and 5307 funding requirements is the best option. If funds are not used within 5 years they are redistributed to MARTA and counties in the Metropolitan Atlanta area. The FY18 Carroll County allocation should be used first before these funds expire.

How has Three Rivers contributed financially? Over the last two fiscal years TRRC has waived the collection of \$70,000 in local contributions by Carroll County. The current budget estimate is that TRRC will contribute \$76,000 in reserve funds during FY23 to support the Carroll County transit system.

How will Three Rivers use the 5307 funds? TRRC will use these funds in FY23 to pay for transit operations, administrative costs, and transit planning for the areas of the County with denser populations. In future years portions may be used for vehicle replacements.