



News Advisory

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: BUS CENTER PROJECT

Blue Water Area Transit Awards \$7.65 Million To Michigan Contractors

\$3.27 Million Will Stay With St. Clair County Contractors

New Parking Lot Added 184 New Spaces on July 3rd

PORT HURON, MICHIGAN — Blue Water Area Transit has awarded \$7.65 Million to date to Michigan contractors, with \$3.27 Million staying with St. Clair County contractors, for the new project. A new 184-space parking lot opened on the west side of the project's construction site July 3rd.

"We have so far awarded to six contractors based in St. Clair County," explains Dave Frasier, BWAT director of procurement and capital projects. "Contracts have been awarded to Raymond Excavating, Sherman Nursery, AIS paving, Edward J. Painting, Zimmer Roofing, and Stevenson Electric."

As many as 30 workers from various local firms, including a crew of 8-10 workers from Raymond Excavating, have started the first phase of the project.

"We like to see projects that allow our workers to stay in the county. It's a nice niche for us that keeps the logistics on our side," says Ralph Livingston, project manager, Raymond Excavating. "This is also a good-sized contract that represents a significant portion of our annual volume."

BWAT's \$9.8 Million project involves constructing a 7,400 square foot transfer center where passengers will board buses serving seven fixed routes that start in downtown and travel in the city of Port Huron and Fort Gratiot Township. The new center includes a passenger waiting area, restrooms, and bus schedule displays.

"We had planned to complete the project before the first Town Hall event in November," says Jim Wilson, BWAT general manager, "Now that the first Town Hall is scheduled for October, we will do our best to have all parking and McMorran Blvd. open by then."

“We are looking forward to giving our passengers a convenient and comfortable place where they can transfer buses,” says Anita R. Ashford, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board vice chair and Port Huron City Council member.

Blue Water Area Transit has served a proud tradition of innovation in public transit for nearly a century and a half. It was one of the nation’s first communities to operate an electrified trolley system in the 1880s and one of the first to operate motor coaches when they became popular in the 1930s. Following an eight-year hiatus, the current bus service began in September 1976. Since then, BWAT has carried more than 27 million riders.

BWAT started producing its own compressed natural gas in 1996 and now ranks as Michigan’s largest producer of the alternative fuel. It runs the state’s largest fleet of natural gas fueled buses and operates four public CNG fueling stations.

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