



Media Advisory

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Effective October 1st

Blue Water Area Transit Bus Fares Go Up Five Cents:

Monthly Passes Stay \$25

PORT HURON, MI — Blue Water Area Transit bus fares will increase by five cents on October 1st. The regular fare to ride the agency's fixed-route and dial-a-ride buses in the Port Huron area, as well as the I-94 express and M-29 local commuter route buses to and from Macomb County, will go up from 75 to 80 cents.

Bus fares will also increase five cents for youth, seniors, and riders with disabilities. Fares will go up from 60 to 65 cents for youth (6-17 years old), and fares will go up from 35 to 40 cents for seniors (60 and older), riders with valid Medicare cards, and riders with disabilities. Children (5 and younger, accompanied by an adult) will continue to ride free of charge.

The agency's seasonal Trolley Tour will continue to offer a one-hour overview of local history aboard an old-time trolley vehicle for only ten cents on Saturdays through October 11th.

Monthly passes will continue to cost \$25 and ten-day passes will continue to cost \$10.

"It's been more than two decades since our last fare increase," says Linda Bruckner, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board chair and Fort Gratiot Township trustee.

The last BWAT fare increase was in 1993 when regular fares went from 60 to 75 cents; youth fares went from 50 to 60 cents; and senior and handicapped fares went from 30 to 35 cents.

"We've been able to hold the line on fare increases by managing costs in several areas," explains Jim Wilson, BWAT general manager. "Investing in eco-smart bus washing and CNG fuel systems are two examples."

Transit services were expanded in 2008, when BWAT added regional commuter routes to and from Macomb County and extended hours designed to help commuters get to and from work. The agency has been able to avoid cutting any bus services since the last fare increase.

The cumulative rate of inflation since 1993 is 64.6%, based on United States government Consumer Price Index data. Spending 75 cents to ride the bus in 1993 is equal to spending \$1.23 today, according to a cost of living calculator developed by the American Institute for Economic Research.

Blue Water Area Transit continues a proud tradition of innovation in public transit that has served Port Huron for more than a century. Port Huron was one of the nation's first communities to operate an electrified transit 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 26 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.

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