



News Advisory

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

2021 Lapeer Avenue Port Huron, MI 48060
810.987.7373 fax 810.987.2431 www.bwbus.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Jim Wilson, BWAT General Manager: 810.966.4200 jwilson@bwbus.com

Late Night Service Debuts This Month

Friday and Saturday Evening Bus Service Expands to 3:00 a.m.

PORT HURON, MI — Starting June 4th, Blue Water Area Transit will offer expanded late evening service on Fridays and Saturdays. The new late-night weekend hours are being supported by a federal program designed to help people get to and from jobs.

“It’s great that we are able to expand our services to help people who work late hours, as well as customers of local restaurants and entertainment venues,” says Jim Fisher, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board chair and Port Huron City Council member.

The expansion of late-night weekend hours follows other recent increases in bus services. The agency has most recently been providing evening bus service until 10:00 p.m., six days a week, with the last fixed-route bus leaving downtown Port Huron at 9:35 p.m.

“We hope that our new service hours allow more area residents to use public transportation to get to work, as well as social and other activities,” says BWAT general manager Jim Wilson. “Our service helps riders save money on gas and also helps some families get by with one less car, which can be a huge savings.”

Transit improvements have all been supported by a Federal program called Job Access and Reverse Commute that addresses transportation barriers to employment. With the addition of State matching funds, the program is completely supported without any need for local tax dollars.

The agency’s new late-night service will keep two fixed-route buses running throughout the night — one traveling South to connect with dial-a-ride service to Port Huron Township and Marysville, and the other traveling North to connect with dial-a-ride service to Fort Gratiot and Burtchville Townships. Each fixed-route bus will add seven Quay Street departures at 10:15 p.m., 10:55 p.m., 11:35 p.m., 12:15 a.m., 12:55 a.m., 1:35 a.m., and 2:15 a.m.

The late-night Route 5 bus will not stop at Birchwood Mall, but travel to Keewahdin Road and serve nearby employers with late business hours.

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Local transit improvements started with the expansion of weekday evening service to 10:00 p.m. nearly three years ago, followed by a similar expansion of Saturday evening service earlier this year.

Weekday morning service was expanded to start at 5:15 a.m. late last year, in order to help riders connect with seven fixed-route buses that leave downtown Port Huron at 6:15 a.m., as well as new commuter routes that travel to Macomb County and stop in Marysville, St. Clair, Algonac, Clay Township, Pearl Beach, Ira Township, Anchorville, and New Baltimore.

Additional information about Blue Water Area Transit services is available at www.bwbus.com or by contacting dispatchers at 810.987.7373.

BWATC 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, BWATC has carried more than 21 million riders and continues the tradition of innovation by producing its own compressed natural gas alternative fuel since 1996.

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