



# News Advisory

## Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

2021 Lapeer Avenue Port Huron, MI 48060

810.987.7373 fax 810.987.2431 www.bwbus.com

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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CONTACT: Jim Wilson, General Manager: 810.987.7373

### **Fill'er Up With Compressed Natural Gas!**

#### **Blue Water Area Transit Opens Three New Fueling Stations**

PORT HURON, MI — Blue Water Area Transit is opening three new fueling stations for compressed natural gas this year. The new stations are in Marine City, Capac, and Port Huron, and are in addition to the fueling station at BWAT's Port Huron headquarters at 2021 Lapeer Avenue.

"We expect the Marine City station to open in March, followed by the Capac station in April, and the Port Huron station in July," says Dave Frasier, BWAT director of maintenance and procurement.

The Marine City station is located in the 500 block of Parker Road (M-29) in front of the Department of Public Works. The Capac station is located at Downey Road (Old M-21) and Capac Road, near Allenton Collision in Mussey Township. The third station is located on Hancock Street near Cawood Auto in Port Huron.

"These new stations support our effort to coordinate and consolidate non-profit transportation programs throughout the county," says Jim Wilson, BWAT general manager. "The stations will also increase our efficiency in servicing our buses while they travel along routes."

All three stations will be open to the public 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with fuel available for \$2.05 per gasoline gallon equivalent. BWAT accepts Discover, Master Card, and VISA at its fueling stations.

The American-made refueling stations are by Mansfield Gas Equipment Systems Corp., based in Gainesville, Georgia. They include video surveillance monitoring and a technical "call out" feature that will notify a BWAT CNG specialist if any problems arise.

"Expanding our commitment to earth-friendly methods with American-made equipment is a wonderful use of federal dollars," according to Linda Bruckner, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board vice chair and Fort Gratiot Township trustee.

Funds for the project come from a \$891,000 federal grant from the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement program and \$222,750 in State matching funds. CMAQ funding is for transportation projects that contribute air quality improvements or provide congestion relief. The project will also benefit from tax incentives.

Compressed natural gas is a low-emission American-made alternative fuel that saves money, promotes a clean environment by reducing carbon emissions, and reduces our nation's dependence on foreign oil.

According to the advocacy group Natural Gas Vehicles for America, there are currently about 1,000 natural gas fueling stations in the United States, with about half of them open to the general public. They also report that there are about 120,000 natural gas vehicles on U.S. roads today and more than 15.2 million worldwide. The United States ranks 17th in the world, with less than 1% of the world's natural gas vehicles.

**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 24 million riders.

BWAT has continued the tradition of innovation by producing its own compressed natural gas alternative fuel since 1996. It now ranks as Michigan's largest producer of compressed natural gas and runs the state's largest fleet of alternative fuel buses (75 out of a fleet of 79). For more information, visit our website at [bwbus.com](http://bwbus.com), our blog at [bwwave.com](http://bwwave.com), our facebook page at [facebook.com/bluewaterbus](http://facebook.com/bluewaterbus), and our twitter page at [twitter.com/bluewaterbus](http://twitter.com/bluewaterbus).

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[glojusticeconnects.com](http://glojusticeconnects.com) 3560 Pine Grove Avenue #350 Port Huron MI 48060 USA