



# 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: 810.966.4200 jwilson@bwbus.com

### **Federal Economic Stimulus Project Moves Forward:**

#### **Blue Water Area Transit Installs**

#### **\$1.4 Million Natural Gas Compressor**

PORT HURON, MI — Blue Water Area Transit has installed a new \$1.4 million natural gas compressor provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This federal investment in local mass transit services is part of the \$6.9 billion in transit capital improvement funding that was included in the bill.

The allocation of \$1,383,824 to Port Huron was part of the Federal Transit Administration's apportionments for urbanized areas in Michigan.

Local contractors installed the compressor, which is made in America by ANGI Energy Systems, Inc. The transit agency completed the installation ahead of schedule and under budget.

The natural gas compressor will streamline BWAT's current refueling process and further reduce the cost of refueling its growing bus fleet.

"We are using our current system to maximum capacity," explains Dave Frasier, director of maintenance and procurement. "If one of our compressors goes down, the time it takes to refuel our buses increases dramatically."

"This new piece of equipment is helping us meet our goal of improving air quality, while we continue to coordinate and consolidate non-profit transportation programs in St. Clair County," BWAT general manager Jim Wilson explains.

BWAT has been producing its own compressed natural gas since 1996, and 63 of its 72 buses run on CNG.

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

"Anything we can do to expand our use of buses fueled by compressed natural gas will benefit our community," explains Jim Fisher, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board chairman and Port Huron City Council member. "CNG is made in America, which is another good reason to support its use."

Earlier this year, CNG refueling resources were made available to the general public. Earth-friendly CNG vehicles may be refueled at BWAT headquarters, located in Port Huron at 2021 Lapeer Avenue. The transit agency's new fueling station is certified by the State of Michigan, open Monday - Saturday, 7:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., and accepts Discover, Master Card, and VISA. The current price is \$1.68 per gasoline gallon equivalent.

**BWAT 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 20 million riders and continues the tradition of innovation by producing its own compressed natural gas alternative fuel since 1996.

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**Blue Water Area Transit** installs a new natural gas compressor on the grounds of its Port Huron headquarters at 2021 Lapeer Avenue. The new compressor will streamline the transit agency's current refueling process and further reduce the cost of refueling its growing bus fleet.

*Both photos are by Dave Frasier, courtesy BWAT*



**Earth-friendly Compressed Natural Gas** is stored by new high-pressure tanks provided by Blue Water Area Transit's Federal Economic Stimulus project. The alternative fuel saves money, promotes a clean environment by reducing carbon emissions, and reduces our nation's dependence on foreign oil.



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810.357.6817 GloJustice@SmithJusticeGroup.com <http://www.gloriajustice.com>  
3560 Pine Grove Avenue #350 Port Huron Michigan 48060