



News Advisory

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Blue Water Area Transit Expands Early Morning Service:

More Riders Can Take the Bus to Work

PORT HURON, MI — Blue Water Area Transit is expanding its early morning service to enable more riders to take the bus to work. Buses in some locations will start as early as 5:15 a.m., effective November 2.

“Blue Water Area Transit’s expanded morning service will help commuters get to work earlier than ever before,” says Jim Fisher, BWATC Board chair and Port Huron City Council mayor pro-tem. “The new morning hours will be especially helpful for those who work in Port Huron’s Industrial Park and along the Macomb County commuter route.”

The earlier service is designed to help riders connect with the seven fixed-route buses that leave downtown Port Huron at 6:15 a.m., as well as the local and express commuter route buses that travel to northern Macomb County during the week, Monday through Friday.

There are three express commuter route buses that travel to Macomb County via 1-94, leaving from Lincoln Park (28th Street and North Blvd.) in Port Huron. They leave Lincoln Park at 6:35 a.m., 7:15 a.m., and 5:15 p.m.

There are also two local commuter route buses that travel to Macomb County via M-29 from downtown Port Huron. They leave the Quay Street boarding area in downtown Port Huron at 6:55 a.m. and 4:15 p.m.

Both the express and the local commuter route buses transport passengers to Chesterfield Township (23 Mile Road and Gratiot Avenue), where further connections within the Detroit area are possible through the SMART regional transit system.

The new early morning service involves starting dial-a-ride service at 5:15 a.m. in Port Huron and Marysville, as well as Burtchville, Fort Gratiot, and Port Huron Townships. It also includes four fixed-route buses leading into downtown Port Huron starting at 5:55 a.m.

“Our service helps riders save money on gas and also helps some families get by with one less car,” says Jim Wilson, BWATC general manager. “This can be a huge savings.”

BWATC’s expanded morning hours are being funded by a Federal program called Job Access and Reverse Commute, which addresses the unique transportation challenges faced by low-income individuals seeking to get and keep jobs. The program is matched by State dollars.

“The JARC program offers a unique investment in our community, since it doesn’t require local matching funds,” explains Jim Wilson, BWATC general manager. The funds are 50% Federal dollars and 50% State dollars.

BWATC is increasing service at a time when most transit agencies throughout the nation are either raising fares or cutting services, or both. “Nine out of ten transit systems had either raised fares or cut service,” according to a recent survey by the American Public Transportation Association.

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

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