



# News Advisory

## Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **\$570,000 Grant Award**

### **Blue Water Area Transit To Retire Three Dial-a-Ride Buses,**

### **Replacing Diesel With Earth-Friendly CNG**

PORT HURON, MI — The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments has awarded Blue Water Area Transit grant funding to replace three diesel dial-a-ride buses with earth-friendly dial-a-ride buses that run on compressed natural gas.

The \$570,000 project is being financed with \$456,000 from the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program and \$114,000 from the Michigan Department of Transportation.



“This project supports our goal to reduce our carbon footprint as much as possible,” says Jim Wilson, general manager.

BWAT will retire three 26-foot Orion II dial-a-ride buses that have reached the end of their useful lives.

“After this purchase, our entire fleet of fixed-route and dial-a-ride buses will run on earth-friendly compressed natural gas,” says Dave Frasier, director of maintenance and procurement. “Only two of our trolleys will still use diesel fuel.”

“Expanding our commitment to earth-friendly resources is a wonderful use of federal dollars,” says Linda Bruckner, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board vice chair and Fort Gratiot Township trustee.

Compressed natural gas is an alternative energy fuel that is clean, abundant, affordable, and domestic.

**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 25 million riders.

BWAT has produced 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) and our blog at [bwwave.com](http://bwwave.com).

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