



News Advisory

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 30, 2010

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Transit Agency's New Saturday Evening Hours

Very Popular with Area Residents

PORT HURON, MI — Bus ridership during new Saturday evening hours is off to a great start, with 354 riders traveling by bus along routes that now run as late as 10:00 p.m. Blue Water Area Transit started the new Saturday evening hours on March 6.

"We were pleasantly surprised to have a brand new service attract so many riders," says BWAT general manager Jim Wilson. "When we introduced evening hours on weekdays, it took over two years for ridership to reach this level."

The new Saturday evening service is identical to the agency's weekday evening service, including all fixed routes and dial-a-ride service areas.

"I'm always very pleased when the public takes advantage of one of our new services, since it shows that there is a need," says Linda Bruckner, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board vice chair. "Since it's started so well, I think it will continue to grow."

Extended evening hours support the agency's goal to help area residents get to and from work by coordinating with their work schedules. "Our new evening hours should help people who need to get home after working Saturdays at retail and other jobs," Jim Wilson observes.

The transit agency also recently expanded their morning service to start as early as 5:15 a.m. along several routes. The change was designed 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.

“Our services help riders save money on gas and can also help families get by with one less car, which can be a huge savings,” according to Jim Wilson, BWAT general manager. “When less gas is used, our local environment benefits. Our buses run on compressed natural gas, which is a clean alternative energy source, so the positive impact on our environment is even greater.”

The agency’s expanded hours are supported 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 paid for with 50 percent Federal dollars and 50 percent State dollars and offers the unique advantage of not requiring any local matching funds.

Additional information about Blue Water Area Transit services is available online 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 20 million riders and continues the tradition of innovation by producing its own compressed natural gas alternative fuel since 1996.

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