



Press Release

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

2021 Lapeer Avenue Port Huron, MI 48060
Phone 810.987.7373 FAX 810.987.2431
Website www.bwbus.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 7, 2021

CONTACT: Lee-Perry Belleau, Community Relations Manager, ext 128, lbelleau@bwbus.com

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Introduces Michigan's First 100% Electric Transit Buses

The Blue Water Area Transit Commission (BWATC) will host a ceremony Wednesday, July 14 at noon to introduce two Proterra battery-electric buses to the BWATC fleet, becoming the first public transit agency in Michigan to operate electric transit buses in its transportation fleet. BWATC plans to put the buses into revenue service sometime in August after extensive staff training has been completed.

The buses and charging equipment were predominantly funded via a 2018 Federal Transit Administration (FTA) \$1.5 million Low or No Emission Program award and the Michigan Department of Transportation. BWATC partnered with Proterra, the leading manufacturer of electric transit buses in North America and DTE Energy - Michigan's largest producer of renewable energy - on the award and project.

continued

“Adding electric powered buses to our existing fleet of compressed natural gas buses continues our local tradition of providing state-of-the-art, eco-friendly service,” said Dave McElroy, BWATC’s General Manager. “Pursuing cleaner technology for our riders and community has been a priority of the Commission for decades.”

To charge the new electric transit buses, BWATC has constructed an overnight charging station at its Admin/Maintenance facility and will complete an in-route charging station at its Downtown Port Huron Transfer Center.

Linda Bruckner, BWATC Board Chair said, “BWATC is always committed to our environment, clean air and quality transit service. Our natural gas fleet of buses reflects this mission. In continuation of this, BWATC is proud to announce the addition of two electric buses and their charging stations. BWATC will be the first transit organization in the State of Michigan to put 100% battery electric buses into service. We would like to thank our staff for their efforts. We would like to thank our partners, Proterra, the manufacturer and DTE, the energy supplier for their commitment to clean energy and BWATC. These new buses will have far reaching positive rewards for the people we serve and our environment in the Blue Water area.”

“Proterra is delighted to partner with Blue Water Transit to bring the first 100% battery-electric transit buses to Michigan and deliver clean, quiet transportation to local riders,” said John Walsh, Proterra Senior Vice President. “Michigan has long been a leader in transportation innovation and we are excited to help drive the transition to zero-emission, battery-electric vehicles with our industry-leading ZX5+ electric transit bus and charging solutions.”

continued



Press Release

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

2021 Lapeer Avenue Port Huron, MI 48060

Phone **810.987.7373** FAX **810.987.2431**

Website **www.bwbus.com**

BWATC selected the 40-foot Proterra ZX5+ battery-electric transit bus with 450 kilowatt-hours of onboard energy and a ProDrive™ drivetrain.

DTE contributed to this mass transit sustainability initiative by managing the logistics associated with ensuring the power needs of the planned in-route charging unit. “We are pleased to partner with BWATC as they integrate more sustainable mass transit vehicles into their fleet,” said Lynn Felcyn, electrification program manager at DTE. “We recognize the important role we play in helping to provide a reliable charging infrastructure for Michigan’s expanding electric vehicle market.”

The general public is welcome to attend the introduction ceremony at BWATC’s facility located at 2021 Lapeer Avenue, Port Huron, Michigan.

###