



Blue Water Area Transit

2021 Lapeer Avenue
Port Huron, Michigan 48060
website www.bwbus.com

(810) 987-7373
Fax (810) 987-2431
e-mail bwatc@bwbus.com

NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PORT HURON, MI —

A unique partnership between SMR Automotive Systems of Marysville and the Blue Water Area Transportation Commission is coming to a close. The “SMR Pilot Program” - compliments of SMR Automotive Systems - was started July 5, 2016, to help SMR’s employees get reliable transportation to and from work six days a week. (Marysville previously only had service three days a week - and not the early/late service the Pilot Program also provided.) The initial Pilot Program was to run for 90 days and then be reevaluated; the program ran for six years! SMR has determined it no longer needs the expanded service.

Starting September 9, 2022, the Pilot Program will end and the City of Marysville will continue to provide service to its community with BWAT Route #20 from 6:30 a.m. to 5:05 p.m., Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The Blue Water Area Transportation Commission thanks SMR for providing the additional service days and times for both SMR employees and the citizens of the City of Marysville.

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About Blue Water Area Transit

Blue Water Area Transit continues the proud tradition of innovation that was started more than a century and a half ago by William Pitt Edison. The older brother of world-renowned inventor Thomas Alva Edison started a horse-pulled trolley service in 1866. After that, he switched to horse-pulled streetcars guided by rails along several local routes.

Port Huron became one of the nation's first communities to operate electrified trolleys in 1886 and then motor coaches in the late 1930s. After an eight-year hiatus ended in 1976, Blue Water Area Transit became the area's first publicly funded bus service. Since then, BWAT buses have carried more than 34 million rider trips.

Six days a week (Monday thru Saturday), BWAT provides ADA-compliant, ramp-equipped bus service. BWAT buses travel in 45-minute intervals along seven fixed routes in Port Huron and Fort Gratiot. Also, BWAT operates commuter service along an I-94 express route and an M-29 local route with stops in the cities of Marysville, St. Clair, Marine City, Algonac, Anchorville, and the townships of Clay and Ira. BWAT also provides dial-a-ride service in the townships of Burtchville, Port Huron, and Fort Gratiot as well as the city of Marysville.

BWAT started producing its own compressed natural gas in 1996 and ranked

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as Michigan's largest producer of the alternative fuel. The transit agency ran the state's largest fleet of natural gas-fueled buses for more than 20 years. It operates four public CNG fueling stations. Additionally, in 2021, BWAT became the first public transit agency in Michigan to operate electric transit buses in its transportation fleet.

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*For more information, contact Lee-Perry Belleau, BWAT Community Relations:
810.987.7373, ext 128. lpbelleau@bwbus.com*

