



# News Advisory

## Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 30, 2017

### Blue Water Area Transit's New Website Counts Down to FREE Bus Fare Day on June 15th

Port Huron, Mich. — Blue Water Area Transit's new user-friendly website features a **COUNTDOWN to June 15th, National Dump the Pump Day**. That is when the transit agency will offer **FREE Bus Rides**. Hundreds of public transit systems nationwide will join BWAT for this celebration now entering its 12th year.

At the start of this, the American Public Transportation Association introduced Dump the Pump Day to emphasize that public transportation is a convenient travel option that helps people save money.

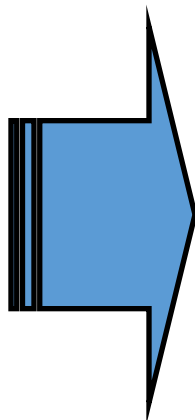
BWAT's new website will go live on May 30 and will feature two calculators that demonstrate the benefits of public transportation. A Fuel Calculator shows how much money you could save by using public transportation. A Carbon Calculator shows the amount of carbon dioxide emissions you could save by switching to public transportation.

"We like showing people how our buses provide a safe and convenient way to travel while making friends and meeting their neighbors," said BWAT general manager Jim Wilson. "When people learn how much money they can save, they often continue to use transit."

APTA reports that households that use transit and downsize by one car save an average of more than \$9,823 annually. The national association also encourages people to ride public transit in order to protect the environment, reduce our country's dependence on foreign oil, and improve American quality of life.

— more —

**COUNTDOWN  
ON BWAT'S NEW  
WEBSITE**



**16 Days Until**

**Dump the Pump**

**JUNE 15, 2017**  
**RIDE PUBLIC TRANSIT**

 **FREE FARE DAY**

According to APTA, public transportation helps make a community economically prosperous and competitive. Every \$1 invested in public transportation generates approximately \$4 in economic returns, powering community growth and revitalization.

BWAT buses transport passengers along fixed routes within the City of Port Huron and Fort Gratiot Township, as well as commuter routes to and from Macomb County. BWAT dial-a-ride buses serve Marysville, as well as Fort Gratiot, Burtchville and Port Huron Townships.

The adult BWAT bus fare is 80 cents. Fares are discounted to 65 cents for youth (6 - 17 years old) and to 40 cents for seniors (60+ years old) and riders with disabilities. Children who are younger than six ride free of charge when traveling with an adult.

“When more people ride the bus, everyone benefits,” said Linda Bruckner, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board chair and Fort Gratiot Township trustee. “It helps reduce congestion and air pollution.”

To learn about bus routes and schedules, call BWAT’s dispatchers at (810) 987-7373. For information about navigating BWAT’s new website, visit [www.bwbus.com](http://www.bwbus.com) or contact Lee-Perry Belleau at [Lbelleau@bwbus.com](mailto:Lbelleau@bwbus.com). Blue Water Wave, the agency’s blog ([bwwave.com](http://bwwave.com)), provides updates on the global transit industry.

Blue Water Area Transit just finished celebrating the sesquicentennial of public transportation service throughout the Blue Water Area, as well as its own start 40 years ago.

William Pitt Edison (the older brother of the celebrated inventor Thomas Edison) started the local tradition of innovation 150 years ago. He started operating horse-drawn trolleys on several routes as the Port Huron & Gratiot Street Railway in 1866.

The Blue Water Area became one of the nation’s first communities to operate electrified trolleys in the 1880s and then motor coaches in the late 1920s. Bus service started in 1927 and continued until an eight-year hiatus from 1968 to 1976. Since BWAT started publicly funded bus service in September 1976, the transit agency has carried more than 29 million riders.

BWAT has produced Compressed Natural Gas since 1996. It is Michigan’s largest producer of the alternative fuel, with the largest fleet of CNG fuel buses in the state. The agency operates four public CNG fueling stations. One station is located at its headquarters in Port Huron at 2021 Lapeer Avenue. It is open Monday-Saturday, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. Three additional stations are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week: in Marine City at 516 S. Parker, in Capac at 15041 Downey Road and in Port Huron at 1529 Hancock Street.

All four of BWAT’s public fueling stations are certified by the State of Michigan. The agency accepts Discover, Master Card and VISA at all four stations.

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