



# News Advisory

## Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

2021 Lapeer Avenue Port Huron, MI 48060  
810.987.7373 fax 810.987.2431 www.bwbus.com

---

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 10, 2009

CONTACT: Jim Wilson, General Manager: 810.986.4200 [jwilson@bwbus.com](mailto:jwilson@bwbus.com)

### **Federal Economic Stimulus for Mass Transit**

### **Awards \$1.4 Million for BWATC Natural Gas Compressor**

PORT HURON, MI — Local mass transit services will receive \$1.4 million of the \$6.9 billion in transit capital improvement funding that has been included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The allocation of \$1,383,824 to Port Huron was part of the Federal Transit Administration's apportionments for urbanized areas in Michigan.

Funding from the Federal Transit Administration will be available to the Blue Water Area Transportation Commission for purchasing a natural gas compressor that will streamline its current refueling process and further reduce the cost of refueling its growing bus fleet.

BWATC has been producing its own compressed natural gas since 1996, and 63 of its 72 buses run on CNG. Compressed natural gas is an alternative fuel that saves money, promotes a clean environment by reducing carbon emissions, and reduces our nation's dependence on foreign oil. The compressor that BWATC is requesting is made in America and will be installed by local contractors.

"Anything we can do to expand our use of buses fueled by compressed natural gas will benefit our community," explains Jim Fisher, BWATC Board vice chairman and Port Huron City Council mayor pro-tem. "CNG is made in America, which is another good reason to support its use."

"This project helps us meet our goal of improving air quality, while we continue to coordinate and consolidate non-profit transportation programs in St. Clair County," BWATC general manager Jim Wilson explains.

+++++

**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 19 million riders and continues the tradition of innovation by producing its own compressed natural gas alternative fuel since 1996.

####



*news release by Gloria Justice*

BrandMyBus.com SmithJusticeGroup.com <http://thebusbuzz.blogspot.com>