



Media Advisory

Blue Water Area Transportation Commission

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PHOTO: One of the new Blue Water Area Transit shelters offers seating and protection from the wind and rain for riders waiting to board their bus by Port Huron Northern High School on Krafft Road.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Blue Water Area Transit Installs New Shelters

With \$250,000 in Federal Grants

PORT HURON, MI — Blue Water Area Transit has installed 16 of 23 new shelters at popular bus stops along routes serving local riders. The project is made possible by \$250,000 in grant funds awarded under the federal New Freedom Program.

“The new shelters are part of our ongoing commitment to making our system easier to use for the growing number of riders who depend on us for transportation,” says Linda Bruckner, Blue Water Area Transportation Commission Board vice chair and Fort Gratiot Township trustee.

The shelters offer seating and protection from the wind and rain for riders waiting for buses. Transparent walls also make it easy for riders to see approaching buses.

“We are creating sixteen new sheltered bus stops and replacing seven shelters that have been in service for a while,” explains Dave Frasier, BWATC director of maintenance and procurement. “We will finish the last seven shelters when the weather warms up this spring.”

New locations for the shelters include Port Huron’s two high schools, Marwood Manor, Northport Towers, Edison Village, Lakeside Beach, and the MDOT Park and Ride lot for commuters traveling to Macomb County. New locations this spring include the Moose Lodge, Mercy Hospital, Pine Grove Park, and M-29 in St. Clair.

“We select shelter locations based on suggestions from our passengers and drivers,” says Jim Wilson, BWATC general manager. “Of course, we also have to get permits from the city or state and usually permission from adjacent property owners.”

The federal government introduced the New Freedom Initiative in 2001 as part of a nationwide effort to remove barriers to community living for people of all ages with disabilities.

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

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