

Megabus booted from choice parking spot

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The low-cost carrier will leave its perch outside the Port Authority Bus Terminal in August, to the delight of its rivals and the port agency.

June 7, 2012 6:29 p.m.

Buck Ennis[\[+\]](#) [Enlarge](#)

Megabus is leaving its sweet Port Authority Bus Terminal parking spot.

The city's Department of Transportation will boot low-cost carrier Megabus.com from its choice location outside the Port Authority Bus Terminal in midtown, ending a controversial experiment.

"After reviewing the temporary location and hearing feedback from the community and other stakeholders, we've started the process of working with Megabus to identify a new location where they can operate," a spokesman for the transportation department said. "Megabus has agreed to this change and may continue to operate at its current location until July 31."

A spokesman for Megabus declined to comment.

The trial had angered Greyhound Lines, Peter Pan Bus Lines and Adirondack Trailways, which pay a combined \$6 million annually for spaces inside the bus station and felt it was unfair for Megabus to have a free spot right outside. It also upset the local community board, whose leaders urged the transportation department not to renew Megabus' permit.

The Port Authority itself vigorously opposed the renewal, arguing that it was not only unfair to bus operators inside the terminal but also presented serious safety concerns. A Port Authority spokesman referred a call to the transportation department.

A state bill pending in Albany would require inter-city buses to get permits in order to use curbside pick-up and drop-off locations. Port Authority operators are looking to carve out a buffer around the facility where pick-ups and drop-offs for inter-city buses would be prohibited.

"We are very pleased the DOT has discontinued the Megabus 41st Street permit," said a spokeswoman for the Coalition of Port Authority Carriers. "We strongly believe our elected leaders should now focus on policies and laws that respect the heritage and inter-city use of the PA bus terminal as established by Mayor [Fiorello] LaGuardia."

