

BoltBus coming to Boston in April

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OK, I won't say I told you so. Last week, I peered into the bottom of my cup, read the coffee grounds and predicted that BoltBus would begin offering low-cost bus service between Boston and New York soon.

Today, the company said that the service would begin in April and that buses would run out of South Station.

BoltBus, a division of Greyhound, specializes in lower-cost fares (they start at \$1 one way and go up as seats fill until they hit regular rates) and guaranteed seats, and it offers WiFi and power outlets. It's the same kind of service Vamoose started to launch last year until it ran afoul of ordinances in Boston and Cambridge.

Both companies are looking to compete with Lucky Star and the sometimes-mechanically-challenged Fung Wah, which offer service for a couple bucks less but without the amenities -- or the guaranteed seating (a not insignificant perk).

Dustin Clark of BoltBus says the company hasn't yet determined exactly when the service will begin or how many trips a day it will make.

The Daily Telegraph of London reported this morning that the move by BoltBus was part of a larger battle between the Scottish owner of Greyhound, FirstGroup PLC, and another Scottish rival, Stagecoach Group, which runs the lower-cost Megabus service in the Midwest and West Coast.

So now it appears you will soon have a choice. Competition. Markets. Cheaper ways to get to New York by bus. Isn't that what makes life here in the US of A so wonderful?