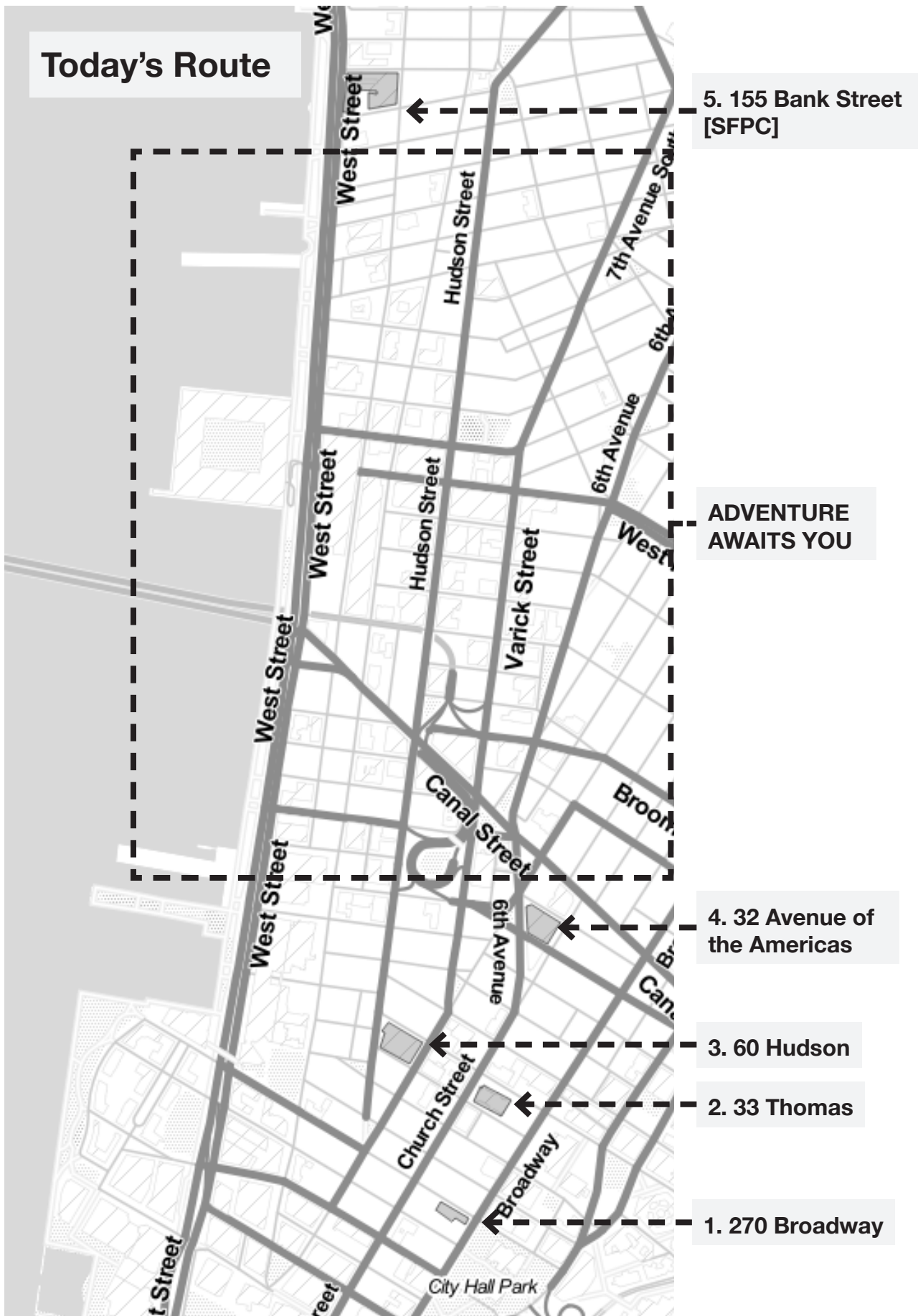
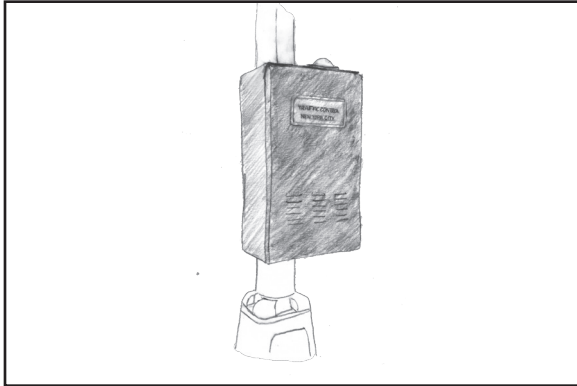


Today's Route



Things To Look For On the street



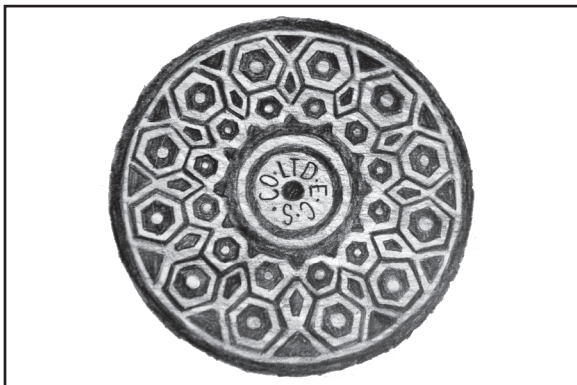
Traffic Signal Boxes

The little green dome on top of the signal control is actually a powerful wireless router used for communicating with other sensors in the traffic network and the city's Traffic Management Center in Long Island City.



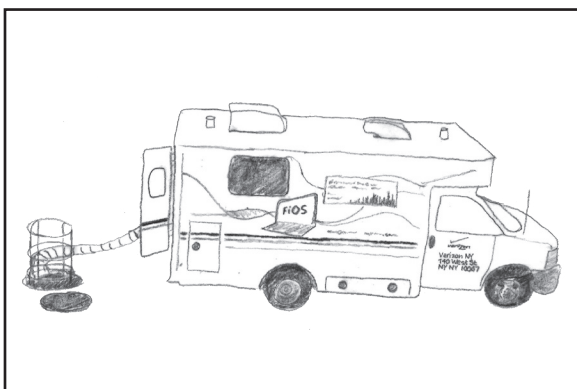
Spraypaint Markings

Before workers dig up a street for construction, all the other companies with things buried around that street have to mark out where their buried things are so workers don't end up knocking out power lines or the internet by mistake. All of these markings are color-coded for specific kinds of utilities. Orange is for all telecommunications.



Manhole Covers

These are entry points to underground ducts. The design or name of the company on the manhole cover can give some indication of what's buried underneath or who owns whatever is buried there. Lots of the telecommunications manholes in New York City have this hexagon design.



Trucks Near Open Manholes

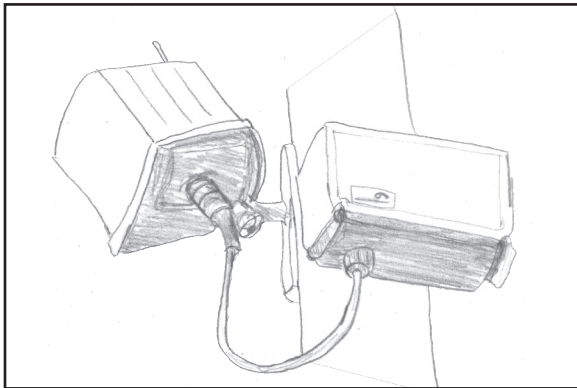
A good indicator of whether work at an open manhole is related to telecommunications is to check out the kinds of equipment and cables visible. It's also helpful to look for certain company names (Verizon, Empire City Subway, and Hugh O'Kane Company are probably the most common).

Things To Look For Above the street



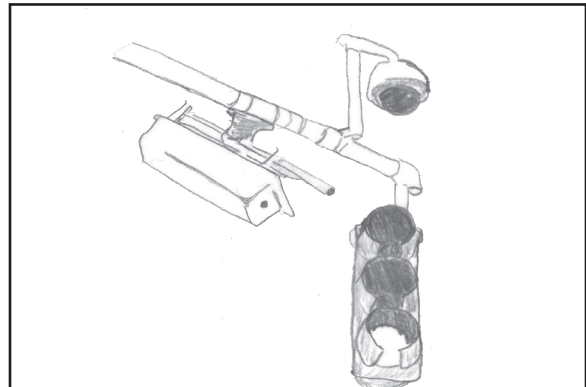
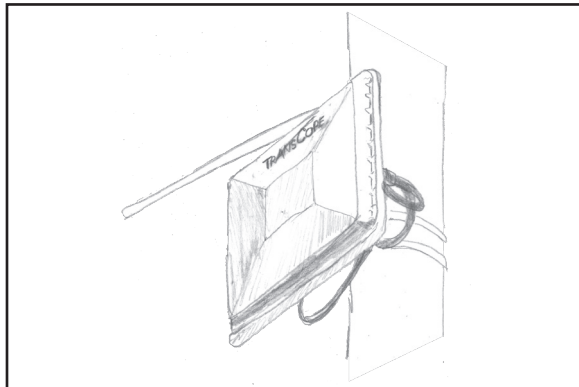
Surveillance Cameras

Different cameras are networked in different ways, and it isn't always super-easy to tell based just on looking at the camera, but they're kind of useful to note as long as you're looking for networked objects.



Remote Traffic Microwave Sensors

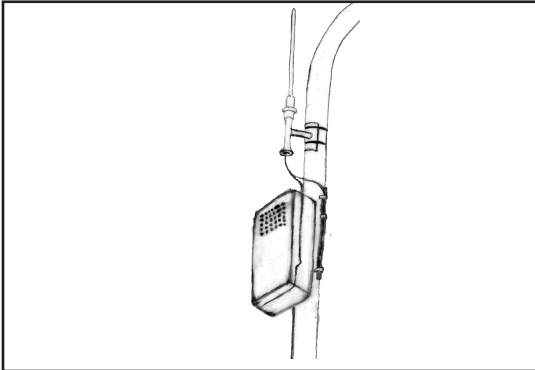
Remote Traffic Microwave Sensors (RTMS) are popular with transit agencies throughout the country as a low-cost, low-maintenance method of counting and tracking traffic in intersections. The RTMS detects motion and speed by measuring the distance of objects in its microwave beam's line of sight.



EZPass RFID Readers

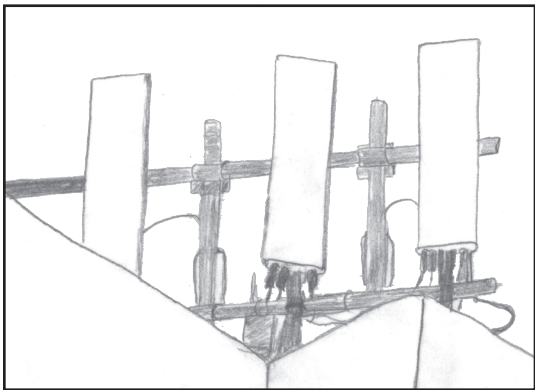
Many intersections in New York City have either one of these antennae devices. Both devices broadcast and receive radio signals. In this context, they're used to read radio frequency identification (RFID) devices embedded in EZPass devices. Technically EZPass is used for toll collection, but EZPass Readers and other sensor devices also collect data from RFIDs for traffic monitoring purposes.

Things To Look For Higher Up



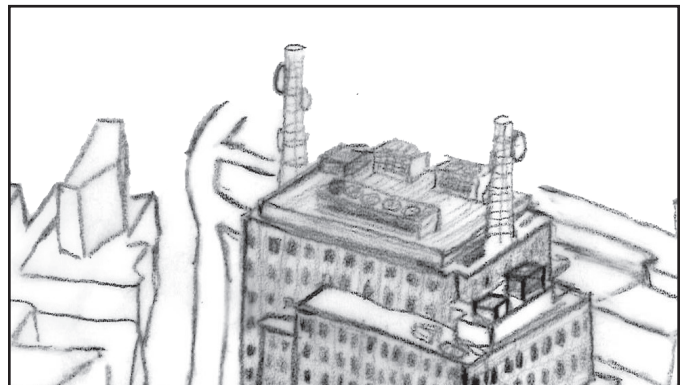
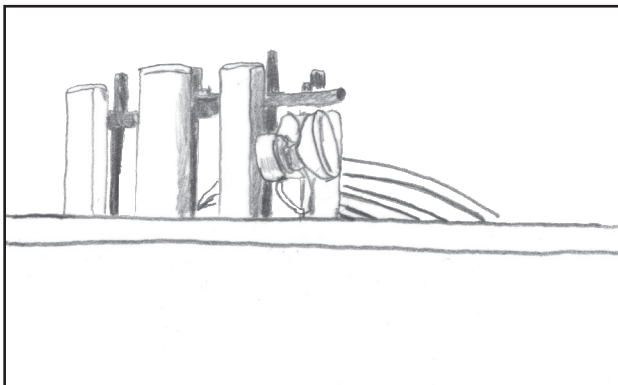
Distributed Antenna System

A Distributed Antenna System (DAS) is basically a way to expand a cell network's reach, adding capacity in under-covered areas. They're a little easier to find on the street because they're not on top of buildings--they're attached to street poles and linked to underground fiber-optic networks.



Cell Towers

Cell towers are how most mobile devices wirelessly connect to the internet when they're being used on the street. In New York, cell towers are mainly on the tops of buildings. They're also often disguised, although their New York disguises are pretty simple compared to cell tower disguises in other places.



Microwave Antennae

These are used for what's called point-to-point communication, which works like a relay system. When one antenna in the microwave network receives a signal, it passes that signal on to the next nearest antenna, which then passes the signal on to the *next* nearest antenna, and so on until it reaches its destination.