

## Bus Map Verities

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The new Manhattan bus map just issued by the M.T.A., only a few months after the new city subway map, is a model of information. Its well-marked routes defy the deep-seated conviction that the only order in Gotham is an institutionalized disorder. The lines on the new map have been untangled and color-coded, their directions are marked and there are clear signs showing whether service is round-the-clock or part-time. The map makers have also observed something called the "cartographic verities," which means that parks are green and water is blue. The subways are marked, and so are landmarks and culture loops.

This is the sort of rationality we like in maps. The system is also shown horizontally, and in one piece (another sort of cartographic verity) on a unified map of Manhattan. The shape would fit nicely on a bus card. Better still, the map is the forerunner of new Queens and Bronx maps, which should appear shortly, and a revised Brooklyn map now on the drawing board.

If custom prevails, Manhattan bus riders probably

won't be able to find this fine map anyplace. But the M.T.A. says it will be distributed to the New York Convention and Visitors' Bureau, the Times Square Information Center, the Grand Central and Penn Station information booths and the New York City Transit Headquarters and Transit Exhibition in Brooklyn. It can also be ordered from the M.T.A. by mail.

There is a remote chance that the maps will be displayed on buses. But with the bus bureaucracy unable to get the route numbers put on the entrance side of the buses as well as on the front, so that New Yorkers wouldn't have virtually to hurl themselves under the wheels to learn their destination, that's a long shot.

Only one thing seems certain. The maps will not be found on the bus shelters. This is an idea whose time has apparently not yet come to New York and, since the negotiations over the franchise for bus shelters are as murky as the old maps, it may never come. But travelers lucky enough to get copies of the new map will at least know where *they're* going.

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