

The Zoomway

Extent: the Eastern Seaboard of the United States, from Boston to Miami, with a line from NYC to Chicago, and a shuttle from Miami to Havana.

Aesthetic: Art Deco bronze and steel, with an undertone of Atomicpunk. The underground Zoomway stations these days look like abandoned Space-Age temples. The tunnels are dark, surprisingly non-dank, but definitely creepy anyway.

The Zoomway is an abandoned mass-transit system that ran between the years 1934 to 1961. It linked cities on the Atlantic coast, using a revolutionary system of vacuum tunnels and electromagnetic propulsion to propel transit capsules at 500 miles per hour. It wasn't cheap, and it wasn't comfortable (passengers were strapped to foam mattresses bolted to the walls; longer trips required sedation), but it was *fast*. The Florida Express could get you from Boston to Miami in three hours. In 1934.

That's mostly the information that's easily accessible about the Zoomway. There are a few books on the subject, found in the less curated public libraries, but they largely read as extended press releases for Zoomway Ltd. (the parent company: incorporated in 1932, dissolved in 1963). The

stations are still around, tucked away underground in easy to overlook places; and naturally the tunnels are still there (although they're no longer airless). But other than that? Nothing much, really.

If this sounds confusing and maybe slightly alarming, congratulations: that's the standard reaction when people first hear about the Zoomway. It's suspected that there's some kind of esoteric block on humanity's collective consciousness about the network. Once somebody hears about the Zoomway, they can tell other people about it - but talking is *all* they can do. No new books will be written about it, no documentaries can be shot, websites crash whenever somebody does a post on Zoomways, and so forth. And if you don't think about the Zoomway regularly, you start to forget about it.

All of which makes it hard for the Secret Masters to keep the Zoomway Refurbishment Project up and running. What's that? Why, yes, ***They*** do want to bring back the Zoomway. Three hours from Boston to Miami is still damned good time - and hard to trace, to boot. But the Secret Masters are no more immune to the Zoomway's weird forgetfulness field than anyone else. And yes, that bugs ***Them*** immensely.

When they can remember it.

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