

A Green Light at the End of the Tunnel

Plans for New York City's Second Avenue subway line are back on track—this time, with an environmental push.

BY JOAN GLECK

THE NEW YORK CITY SUBWAY on a 90-degree afternoon in August. Sweat slides down your back as you wait on a Lexington Avenue platform for the packed-to-the-rafters train that is, as usual, late. You watch a fat rat skitter across the track bed, then you hazard a glance at your fellow commuters. All share the same glassy-eyed look, pondering this third tier of hell, a setting far removed from any vision of progressive design or user comfort.

