

Trolleybuses in Zurich

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What is a trolleybus?



Advantages

- Centrally powered
 - Zero emission at pedestrian level, more efficient
- Electric propulsion
 - Rapid, yet smooth, acceleration and deceleration, good on hills
 - Quiet ride
- Benefits of a bus carriage
 - Low loading areas, wide aisle
 - Moderate to heavy passenger traffic
 - Add carriages during rush hour
- Not fixed to a track, can move around obstacles, accidents
- System lifespan and cost

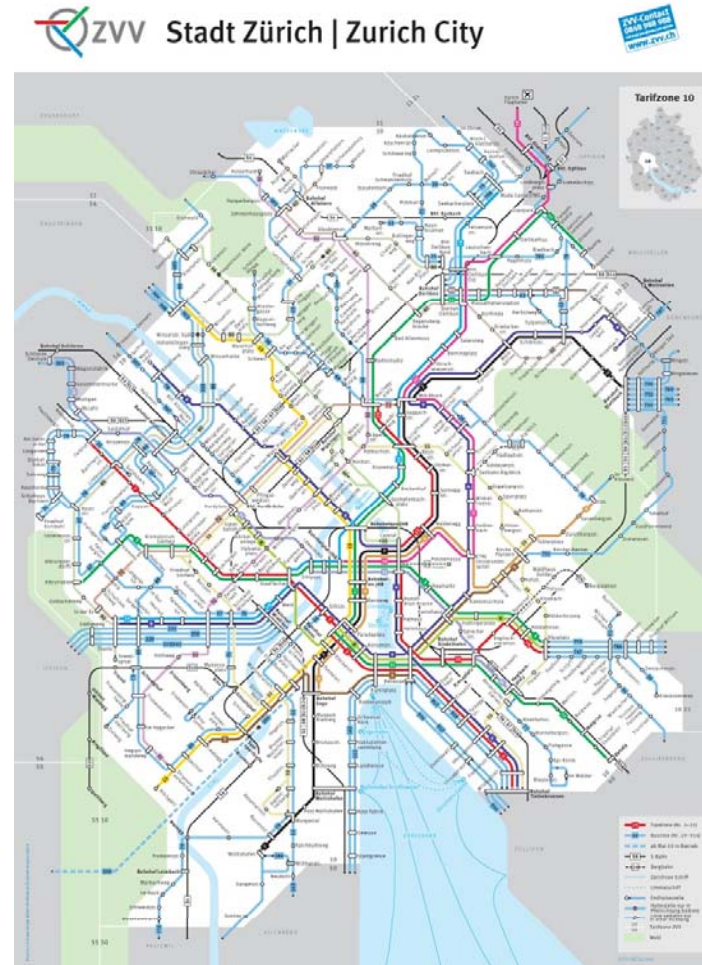
Disadvantages

- Established overhead wiring
 - Aesthetics
 - One trolleybus cannot pass another
 - Temporary route changes are difficult
 - Larger upfront costs to install system
- No noise can cause pedestrian accidents
- Social stigma attached to public transit, especially buses



Why does it work in Zurich?

- Public support for transit
- Easy to use system
 - Frequent, signage
- Transit has priority over cars
 - Special transit lanes
 - All green lights
- Traffic calming techniques
 - Reduced car parking in the city
 - No left turns allowed over transit lanes
- Swiss power is mostly hydroelectric



How does this make Zurich greener?

- Improved air quality with fewer emissions
- Reliable, frequent transit allows people to depend on it as a mode of transport, thus increasing ridership
- Traffic calming measures reduces car use and city congestion
- Fewer cars prevents the need for future infrastructure



Citations

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Images

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