OUT OF THE TOOLBOX
Scouting and Reconnaissance

Mapping is important if you want to understand the opportunities for action, but mapping alone isn't enough. There is also tactical reconnaissance, which is a fancy way to say, go scouting! Buildings and streets will tell you what you need to know if you take the time to look. Google Maps is pretty awesome, but nothing can replace your own two eyes, live, in real time.

Before you set out, look for online maps with floor plans or tenant lists in target buildings, and draw a map if you need to of your action area. Visit the site several times, especially during the time of day you expect to take action. Once you have observed and understand a space, action ideas often emerge. Taking photos can be useful when your memory fails!

Things to Look for When Scouting Buildings
Security: desks, cameras, personnel
Entrances, exits, loading areas, fire escapes
Sidewalk space, landscaping, trees, benches
Windows: Think about the visibility in and out

Places for possible banner drops
Parking and parking garages
Retail outlets/eateries

Things to Look for When Mapping a City
Highways (entrance and exit ramps), roads, and streets, noting lanes and traffic flow
Bridges for banner drops
One-way streets: great to go against the flow and harder for police to follow
Police stations, jails, and courthouses where your people will be brought
Meeting spaces and community centers for trainings and support
Parks to assemble and create safe space; hearts of the city where people can gather

Janitor/staff schedule
Bathrooms
Wi-Fi access

Construction sites that will have materials
Parking garages: to park, to film from, or for banner drops
Tourist sites and cultural centers like museums, theaters, operas
Public transportation for getting to and from actions
Hospitals in case people are hurt
Public buildings, bus stations, and libraries: places to escape to if the police attack

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