still...I Ride...  
a poetry collaborative

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THE RED LINE IS POETRY IN MOTION

January 2019

Poets:
Lexi Stokes
Pablo V. S.
P.M. Castañeda
Avery Tromm
Laura M. Kehoe
Robert Springer
Kenneth Yerian
Beatrice Smith
Eva Wojciechowski
James Solomon Benn

@3C_Indy
#TransitDrivesIndy
#ReadyfortheRedLine
Poet: Lexi Stokes
Age: 15
Student: 10th Grade
Arsenal Tech HS
Lives: MK Zone 2
Favorite place in the city:
Central Library
Bus route: 17

Poet: Pablo V. S.
Age: 12
Student: 7th Grade
Lives: Meridian Kessler
Favorite place in the city:
Downtown Indianapolis
Bus route: 19

Does the color of my skin affect your mind?
Does it make you want to turn back time?
No matter what you think, on this bus

The bus will take me here or there
It can take me downtown where time flies

The bus will take me anywhere

Like with my friends to synergize.

I will always ride.
I am on a bus
I will be home soon
I’d love it if this bus had wings
and took me to the moon

Tal vez tus ojos me disparen,
Pero tu alma deje
sentarme a tu lado
cuando la carga de mis sueños
parezca imposible...
todavía ando.

Poet: P.M. Castañeda
Age: 49
Profession: Banker
Lives: SoBro
Favorite place in the city: Newfields
Bus route: 39 and 19

Poet: Avery Tromm
Age: 11
Student: 7th Grade,
St. Matthews
Lives: Broad Ripple
Favorite place in the city: Indianapolis Children’s Museum
Bus route: 17

Age: 49
Profession: Banker
Lives: SoBro
Favorite place in the city: Newfields
Bus route: 39 and 19

Poet: Avery Tromm
Age: 11
Student: 7th Grade,
St. Matthews
Lives: Broad Ripple
Favorite place in the city: Indianapolis Children’s Museum
Bus route: 17

still...I Ride...
I sit and I text; or I don’t
Just look out the window at
neighborhoods, pied
I can choose what I do and how I feel

And I feel relaxed
when I ride.

Did you want to see me walking?
Tired shuffle and stumbling stride?
Weighed down with sacks of groceries,
No bus that I can ride?
You may pollute the air and water, 
Your car is status and pride
You will arrive stressed from traffic
So, at peace, the bus I ride.

You may say I’ve taken up your space
or I’ve changed and traffic has slowed
You may say that I’m as BIG as a whale
but there are EIGHTY less cars on the road
I ride to tell a story
Of those who please or frustrate
So would you care
to join me
on my
ten-minute wait?

Poet: James Solomon Benn
Age: 61
Profession: Performing Artist/Graphic Designer
Lives: Downtown/
Mass Ave
Favorite place in the city:
Butler University Campus
Bus route: 17

In the wonder of its state-of-the-art fabrication.
I ride
The pride of unceasing Indy conversation.
I ride
A gleaming streamlined crimson streak.
Running on time, both on peak or off peak.
I ride
I ride
I ride....

Poet: Eva Wojciechowski
Age: 14
Student: 9th Grade
Lives: South Broad Ripple
Favorite place in the city:
Mass Ave. District
Bus route: 17 and 19

I ride to tell a story
Of those who please or frustrate
So would you care
to join me
on my
ten-minute wait?

Poet: James Solomon Benn
Age: 61
Profession: Performing Artist/Graphic Designer
Lives: Downtown/
Mass Ave
Favorite place in the city:
Butler University Campus
Bus route: 17
**The Inspiration**

*Still I Rise*

*Maya Angelou, 1928 - 2014*

*Just like moons and like suns,*

*With the certainty of tides,*

*Just like hopes springing high,*

*Still I’ll rise...*

You can find the rest of this work by going online and visiting the following webpage:

[www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46446/still-i-rise](http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46446/still-i-rise)

“*You can’t use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.*”

More Inspiration from Maya Angelou

If you have questions on this poetry project or would like a free poster or additional copies of this booklet, please email to arrange a pick-up: stilliride317@gmail.com

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**Ten Minutes Ten Stanzas**

This ten-verse poem represents the short TEN-MINUTE wait proposed by the Red Line operators.

The “Still I Ride” poem has been designed to tell the stories of current and future bus riders (Indy citizens). Their stanzas express their experiences riding the bus and their perspectives on the new Red Line. We selected ten amateur poets from those interested in helping us assemble this poetry collaborative in the style and cadence of Maya Angelou’s “Still I Rise.”

Our poets brought their own voices to her model for this community poetry-in-motion project. These ten stanzas were selected from both online submissions and those developed in workshops at Shortridge HS, the Indianapolis Art Center, and the College Ave. branch of the Indianapolis Public Library. For details on our poets, please visit [https://indyarts.org/public-art/current-projects/item/3c-indy](https://indyarts.org/public-art/current-projects/item/3c-indy). There, you can also find more information on the Red Line project.

Thank you, Ms. Angelou...