

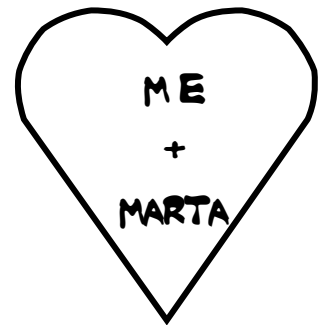
2010 Midtown Transportation Solutions *I Love My Clean Commute!* Poetry Contest

Thank you so much to all of the Midtown poets who submitted their entries for the contest. We had an overwhelming response, and it was really difficult to choose! Each of us at MTS (Amy, Keshia, and Jessica) picked a winner and an Honorable Mention. We've also included some of our favorite entries following the list of winners.

Winners

When week's end toil
brings respite brief
and motion remembered
from a past unrecalled,
I look up as round the curve
the lights shine kindly
and I relent....
"Good-bye dear place."

—Ginger Vawter
Midtown



I Love You MARTA

On cold cold mornings I watch the track for a
glance of you to come right back.
Your warmth invites me to ride your rail.
How much I love you I will never tell.

—Becky Jennings
AT&T

*A poem/song to the tune of Steppenwolf's
"Born to Be Wild"*

Got my pedals movin'
Head out up to Peachtree
Lookin' for the bike path
And a cleaner commute for me
Yeah Midtown, go make it happen
Take Atlanta in a love embrace
I'll never go back to driving solo
Let's make a greener place



I like trees and fresh air
Our earth's natural wonder
Biking past the traffic
And the feelin' that I'm under
Yeah Midtown, go make it happen
Take Atlanta in a love embrace
I'll never go back to driving solo
Let's make a greener place

Like a true nature's child
I was born, born to be wild
I can walk or bike
I never wanna drive

Born to bi-i-i-ike
Born to bi-i-i-ike

—Liz Hanlon
Georgia Tech

Honorable Mention

Brake lights are red
Cop lights are blue
Take mass transit
To avoid the two

—**Mark Elton**
Georgia Tech

I love riding the number 10 bus;
There's rarely any hassle or fuss.
I usually just sit and read
While the bus driver makes good speed.
I don't think it can get any better;
Commuting daily from Marietta.

Sometimes in winter the weather is cold
And it hurts these bones so old
But my bus is safe and warm
I'm never afraid of any harm.
I don't think it can get any better;
Commuting daily from Marietta.

Then in the summer the weather is hot
But on my bus it's certainly not.
The driver keeps the temperature cool;
"The cooler, the better" is the rule.
I don't think it can get any better;
Commuting daily from Marietta.

No paying for a parking space,
My car is always waiting for me in place
When I return from my day in Midtown
Sometimes even after the sun goes down!
I don't think it can get any better;
Commuting daily from Marietta.

—**Rich Nuckolls**
Norfolk Southern

Commuter's Love Poem

I think that I shall never see
a lane as lovely as the HOV.
I can't wait to get there every day
to get my commute under way.
The other lanes just won't do
unless you like sitting in the stew.
We get to work in no time at all
and always manage to avoid the stall.
I save on gas and wear and tear
and I've stopped pulling out all my hair.
There's nothing worse than a traffic mess
to make you yell and make you stress.
Having a carpool is truly great
cause now I'm hardly ever late.
I get to work with a smile on my face
knowing I didn't crawl in at a snail's pace.
I love saving the extra money
to go out on the town with my honey.
So if you think carpooling is not for you
I disagree; it's always better with two!

—**Rachel Smith**
Alston & Bird

Some of our favorite entries...

O, clean commute, how I love thee....
Bus, train, foot fancy free.
Take your pick, it's your choice
Money in your pocket and time to rejoice!

—**Phyllis L. Clemmons**
AT&T

I ride to work, I breeze right by
They all drive, I just don't know why
The train so quick, efficiently run
Meeting strangers can be quite fun
I do not miss traffic, oh no, I do not
Inundated roads put passengers in a spot
Readers, music lovers all aboard
Diminish the drivers, what a horde
Reduce my carbon foot print
This is my main goal
To change our environment as a whole
Biking is fun, such great exercise
If we all did it, we'd be healthy and wise
I love Atlanta, a native I am
I'll change the planet, I know I can
Environmental Sustainability, we must abide
So that future generations enjoy the ride

—**Annie B. Pasmanick**
Troutman Sanders

I love carpooling to work,
taking Marta to the Doctor.
If I didn't live so far out,
I could bike and be healthier.

—**Connie Walden**
Norfolk Southern Corporation

Each day I walk a tree lined street
My commute, you see, is all on feet!
Through sun and rain and wind and snow
No matter what--it's off to work I go!
Spend tons of money on commuting and gas?
No thanks, friend--I think I'll pass.
My walks even come with a reward
Each month a new gift card--Score!
And so each day as I watch gridlock on the Connector
I am so thankful my clean commute is my protector!

—**Drew Slone**
Smith, Gambrell, & Russell

Haiku (5-4-5):

Less gas, short commute.
Save the planet:
MARTA is smarta!

—**James Wolters**
AT&T

Roses are Red
Violets are Blue
I love to commute just like you.
It gives me time to rest my head
And stop polluting the good clean air.
It gives me a chance to stop wear and tear on my car
Cause sharing a ride with someone can create clean air...

—**Roberta Whitney**
Norfolk Southern

Cars

Smog swirling around the air
Sky cloudy and somewhat bare
Listening to a voice reading
A book while carpooling

The trees roll by as I drive
To and from work with pride
My trip is fairly far from home
But having company keeps the zone

I'm happy I carpool galore
Starting after 2004
Since then I have championed
More pollution than 50 thousand

I travel every week day
Except on leave and holiday
Then I travel efficiently
When commuting electronically

When love fills the air
Once yearly and with care
I will thank the stars
That I carpool in cars

—**Kim Whaley**
Sutherland Asbill & Brennan

O, Clean Commute

O, clean commute, how you rescue me,
from traffic's woes and tragedy.
O, clean commute, how you save the air,
and keep my car from more repairs.
O, clean commute, how you save on parking fees,
and also help to protect the trees.
O, clean commute, how you bring new friends,
and keep me from that road rage sin.
O, clean commute you brought rewards and Cash for Commuters.
Oh, what a joy to log daily on my computer!
O, you are the best. There is no dispute.
How, I love you, my clean commute!

—**Anonymous**
Midtown

Clean Commute. What a hoot!
It helps me to save a lot of loot.
Love it! Love it! Every day!
Even found me a guy along the way.

—**Cynthia J. Morris**
AT&T

Oh how much better the commute goes by
And the car just seems to fly

Off to work we go
And usually not too slow

No need to stress
We're usually out of the mess

I must confess
Having a carpool buddy is the very best!!

—**Paula Young**
Alston & Bird

The Beauty of MARTA

When I get up in the morning
And prepare to face my day
As I'm strolling to the bus stop
In my normal, cheerful way
I am neither stressed nor worried
And I have nothing to fear
For my car's parked in my driveway
And my music's in my ear

—**Roycie Tanksley**
Midtown

A Clean Commute Limerick

This lady loves a commute that's clean.
By bus and train, it's just a dream.
Money saving.
No road raging.
Try transit and see what I mean.

—**Nancy Vines**
Kilpatrick Stockton

Oh alternative commute, how I love you!
You are fairer than all the other commutes—
more clean, more lively, more free!

You pass them by in their miserable SOVs,
toss your hair at their selfish and unsustainable habits.

You glide past them in the carpool lane like a dove,
swift and playful in the spring air
You race ahead of them on the train like a stallion,
You look down upon them from your bicycle,
and on foot you are regal—you reign supreme!

I love you, and I love what you create:
social capital and clear skies, healthy bodies and health wallets!
Were it not for you, my love, I might still be in an SOV,
my life a dead end, my soul ashamed.

But oh, clean commute, be not only mine
but grow till every commuter learns to love you and comes to say,
"Clean commute, will you be mine?"

—**Woody Giles**
Tunnell-Spangler-Walsh & Associates

Clean air commuting,
saving air for the future.
Walk, Bike, or Carpool.

Breathe in, Breathe out, Ahh.
Walking is liberating,
parking is easy.

Pump once, Pump twice, Ahh.
Biking is exercising,
slimming is easy.

Friend in, Friend out, Ahh.
Carpooling is increasing,
sharing is easy.

Walk, Bike, or Carpool.
Finding a way is easy.
Love Clean Commuting.

—**Anonymous**
Midtown

VPSI is my friend, I love riding to Turner daily and I pray it never ends.
Comfortable, quiet, convenient, the list never ends,
I don't know whose idea it was but, they're truly my friend.

Commuting to work on Marta or the van can be thought of as a hassle,
but it saves me both time and money that I can wisely spend on my castle.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! What more can I say,
I look forward to getting on my commuter van each and every day.

—**Vickie Ward**
Turner Broadcasting

I Love The Cobb Xpress

It has been a year and a month since I became a rider on the Cobb Xpress
And I've come to realize that this mode of transportation is surely the best,
Although there are some mornings when riders are wired and a bit chatty
If it were not for my headphones the noise would drive me batty,
In a year's time I've only encountered two drivers that were not so good
But that's because they were not always being as cautious as they should,
It's not a requirement for me to have a driver who always smiles
Just mustering up a smirk is hard after a long day of driving many miles,
I love being able to read a book or catch me a little nap
But when you fall into that deep sleep is when your stop comes up in a snap,
I never wanted to work downtown because I always dreaded the commute
But thankfully Cobb Xpress eliminated that and I'm doing my share to not pollute,
Riding the bus for me is a no-brainer because it saves me a ton of cash
I don't have to fight that traffic, pay parking fees and pay the high price of gas,
So hats off and many thanks for providing this service to us
I can travel to work stress-free because I am a rider on the Cobb Xpress bus.

—**Tomika Morris**
Kurt Salmon

There once was a boy from Cumming,
Who's commute to Atlanta was numbing,
He discovered Xpress,
Which lowered his stress,
Now at the traffic, his nose he's thumbing.

—**Ed Dobberstein**
AT&T

Marta, Marta, Marta !
Oh How do I Love Thee,
Let me count the ways....
you seduce my wallet into a bliss of savings;
you cause my car to have fewer repair cravings;
you serenade me with a BREEZE card to put me at ease and
you make the air in our environment much cleaner to breathe,
Marta, Marta, Marta !
Oh How do I Love Thee.

—**Jackie Reeves**
Smith Moore Leatherwood

Clean-Air Commute

I love my new commute that helps with clean air,
Driving alone again I would not dare,
For me, the only option is to carpool,
And save money on all that fuel.
And now when I have the urge to sing,
With me the backup, I always bring.

—**Anonymous**
Midtown

MARTA
Starts and ends my day
No traffic jams for me
Time to read, relax

—**Katie Andersen**
Perkins+Will

I'm in Love with CCT

Roses are red.
CCT is my beautiful blue.
Riding peacefully to work,
Is my dream come true.

I love my clean air.
I love the passengers on each side.
The future and sky are bright,
With CCT as our ride.

—**Marcee McCarthy**
AT&T

Shall I compare thee to a Hummer on the highway?
Thou art more gas-free and more quiet.
Rough traffic overtakes Atlanta roads today,
The connector southbound is a riot.
Outside hot engines make bee-lines,
And often is the golden sky polluted;
And quality of air sometimes declines,
I think a change of course would be well-suited;
But MARTA, oh thy beauty shall not fade
And for thy token so few cash I ow'st;
I can read books and tap my iPhone in the shade,
While in eternal lines the traffic grow'st:
You help reduce Georgia's carbon debris,
And reduce my cost to get to work GREENly.

—**Kerri Hochgesang**
Smith, Gambrell, & Russell

Throwing off the covers everyday,
Hustling and bustling so I can be on my way,
Fighting the daily things to remain sane,
So I can time the train.
Sit back, relax, read a book,
No responsibility, you are off the hook,
I love the daily commute,
That takes me to my route.
Together we can clean the air,
So people can breathe everywhere.

—**Angela Rivers**
AT&T

Clean Commute

In the morning when I rise,
I think about the polluted skies.
Most people don't give a hoot.
They drive alone for their daily commute.
People just drive in the polluted smog.
Instead of updating the daily commuters log.
Saving our planet would be wise
And in the process you could win the \$25 monthly commuters prize.
Show the world how much you care,
clean commute and revitalize the air.
Give a hoot!
Don't Pollute!
Join a car pool and Clean commute!

—**Anonymous**
Midtown

Change my mode of transportation?
Give up my car without hesitation?

GRTA, walk or take MARTA
Making the change is much smarter.

I've changed my mode of transportation.
Saving money – what EXHILARATION!

—**Chandra Thornton**
Federal Home Loan Bank Atlanta

Ode to a Clean Commute

I love my clean commute!
No road raging for me.
I've ridden bus and train
For years nearing thirty-three!

I love the money savings,
Love my stress-free ride.
I love the books I'm reading
While other folks still drive.

Clean commuting is my passion.
I get to and from work with ease.
Why don't you come and join us?
You'll find that it's a breeze!

—**Nancy Vines**
Kilpatrick Stockton

It was March, 2006 when I fell in love with my CCT commute,
To look at the frustrated drivers is always such a hoot!
People would look up at our bus as it zoomed by in the HOV lane,
Becoming even angrier wishing they could do the same.

I know depending on public transportation is not easy to do,
Because in an emergency, you think you can't leave when you would need to.
People don't know that there is a back-up ride that is always near,
Guaranteed to get you home or to your car so you have nothing to fear.

You can quickly get where you need to go to handle what needs to be done,
It's like a personal chauffeur waiting to make you priority number one.
I love being a part of a clean commute and I always encourage others,
I really try to convince my co-workers, especially the mothers.

I know we don't want our children to wait when we hear their cry,
But the guaranteed ride will get you home faster than if you had to drive.
If only people would give commuting a try to see how less stressful it would be,
Less wear and tear, and fewer repairs so more money in their pocket to keep.

On my bus, we sleep, watch movies, listen to music, read or talk to other people,
And I know I'm almost at work when I see the big church steeple.
So here's to my new found love, a joyous, clean commute,
No more parking fees or speeding tickets and never again a wheel boot.

—**Jacqueline Trent**
Midtown

Precious Bus *(in honor of the hardest working vehicles in the metro area, the GRTA buses)*

Precious bus, my precious bus,
I can not miss my precious bus.

How I do make a fuss,
over you, precious bus.

My friends can wait,
because I can not be late.
I can not miss my precious bus.

Out of the door I do rush
to sit and nap on those seats so plush.
I can not miss my precious bus.

Out of its windows I look,
or enjoy reading a book.
I can not miss my precious bus.

Oh, look at the time!
that's why I must end this rhyme.
So I can go catch my precious bus.

—**Anonymous**
Midtown

I love commuting on the MARTA Train
'Cause driving in traffic is really insane
I can read the paper or relax in chill mode
And not have to worry about rage on the road
I love not contributing to bad breathing air
With pollution destroying the ozone layer
So everyone join me in riding on MARTA
To keep our air clean, it's definitely smarter!

—**Lisa Johnson**
Bank of America

Eyes wide open,
No time to think;
Brake lights glaring,
Traffic stinks!

That was life
Before XPRESS;
Riding the bus,
Removed the stress.

Now I nap,
Or read a book;
Sit and daydream,
Or just look.

I can relax,
My mood is lighter;
When I get home,
My disposition is brighter.

So from the heart,
To all I tell;
"Commuting made easy"
You ring my bell!

—**Sandra P. Smith**
Norfolk Southern