

**Please check which category you are nominating this person for:**

	Advocacy	An individual or organization that has exhibited outstanding advocacy efforts on behalf of people with disabilities in the City of Portland
X	Community Inclusiveness	An individual, organization, or program that has made a significant effort to include people with disabilities in the community in the City of Portland
	Lifetime Achievement	An individual that has spent a significant portion of their life working to improve the accessibility and inclusivity of people with disabilities in the City of Portland
	Transportation	An individual or organization that has worked to improve the accessibility of the City of Portland in regard to transportation issues
	Youth Achievement	An individual under the age of 25 either with a disability or who has contributed to the disability community in a way that promotes inclusivity and awareness in the City of Portland

**Name of Nominee:** Ride Connection's RideWise Travel Training Program    **Phone:** 503.528.1743

**Address:** 3030 SW Moody Ave #230 Portland, OR 97201    **Email:** ridewise@rideconnection.org

**Name of Nominator:** Robert Ueland    **Phone:** 503.753.0201

**Email of Nominator:** uelandbo@hevanet.com

In one page or less, please tell us why this individual, organization or program should be honored with the 2009 "Making a Difference" in disability award in the category for which you are nominating them.

Some ideas of things to share could include:

- How has the nominee worked to advocate for the disability community?
- What impact or observable change has occurred due to their efforts?
- An example or story that highlights why the nominee should be honored.

Ride Connection's RideWise Travel Training & Mobility Support Services program was implemented in 2004 and is the result of a unique partnership between Ride Connection and TriMet. Ride Connection's RideWise program has always stayed true to its singular mission of making a difference by providing access to information, training, and support to all older adults and people with disabilities in the Portland area who wish to make independent travel a reality.

Since inception, the travel training program has served more than 500 individuals, all successful independent travelers, while countless others have been served by one or more of the other program elements within the RideWise program's family of services.

As part of the ongoing efforts to reach out to all members of the community, a book entitled "The Rider's Voice" was recently released. The book features the stories of 25 new independent travelers and advocates who have all shared in the RideWise experience. Each story, enhanced by the incredible imagery of world-renowned photographer, Christopher Anderson, is a powerful and unique first-person account of what it means to travel independently; to move about the community with purpose and without harm.

While this book is still making its way into the hands of community members, early feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. This book has already been labeled "a treasure" by many who've had the opportunity to read it.

"The Rider's Voice" makes a difference by providing a dignified account of ordinary people doing ordinary things; potentially changing attitudes and further blurring the unnecessary lines that separate us one from another.