



ANNUAL REPORT | 2025
Driving Impact Together

A New Chapter: Moving People Forward



Dear Friends, Supporters, and Valued Community Members,

It is with immense gratitude and enthusiasm that I introduce myself as the new CEO of Ride Connection. Stepping into this role has been a wonderful experience, and I've been welcomed with open arms by an organization deeply committed to its mission. I'm invigorated by the opportunity to lead this remarkable organization.

In the short time I've been here, I've already witnessed firsthand the profound impact Ride Connection has on the lives of individuals in our community. I've seen firsthand how we connect people to vital services and ensure that everyone, regardless of age, ability, or income, has access to reliable transportation. I've heard countless stories of how our services enable seniors to attend medical appointments, individuals with disabilities to access employment opportunities, and families to navigate daily life with greater ease. We truly are moving people like no one else.

What has struck me most vividly is our unique and remarkable approach to partnership. While many speak of collaboration, Ride Connection lives it through a network management model that makes us a highly impactful organization. To provide more

than 350,000 rides a year, we partner with more than 50 nonprofit, community-based organizations. We empower these partners by providing vehicles, training, and logistical support, allowing them to focus on what they do best: serving their specific communities. When you support Ride Connection, you are effectively supporting an entire network of over 50 other community nonprofits.

This spirit of partnership extends further through our work in non-emergency medical transportation with CareOregon to our creative solutions for rural neighbors outside the TriMet service area with Washington County with our Community Connectors.

The commitment of our board, staff, volunteers, and partners is the driving force behind our success. Our volunteers are more than just drivers; they are the roots that connect us with our community. This organization is a lifeline for so many, and the tangible difference we make is evident every single day.

As we look ahead, I am excited to build upon Ride Connection's strong foundation. We will continue to innovate, adapt, and expand our services to meet the evolving needs of our community. Our commitment to providing accessible, dependable, and compassionate transportation remains steadfast.

Thank you for your continued support of Ride Connection. Together, we can ensure that our community remains connected, vibrant, and accessible for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andy Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andy Nelson
CEO, Ride Connection

Connecting Communities, One Stop at a Time

This year marked an exciting milestone for Ride Connection with the launch of three new Community Connector lines -

BethanyLink, KingCityLink, and CorneliusLink - bringing neighbors closer to the places and people that matter most. At its heart, transportation is about connection, and these new routes reflect that belief in action.

Made possible through collaboration with the City of Cornelius, City of Forest Grove, City of King City, City of Tigard, City of Durham, City of Tualatin, TriMet, Centro Cultural, Portland Community College and long-time partner Washington County, each line was shaped by community input. We listened closely, identified gaps, and worked together to design services that are flexible, welcoming, and built around real daily routines.

Together, BethanyLink, KingCityLink, and CorneliusLink expand access to the essentials link jobs, health care, shopping, community spaces, and regional transit. These innovative opportunities ensure that all families, including older adults, people with disabilities, and youth have dependable, easy-to-use transportation close to home. Across these communities, everyday trips are now simpler, more reliable, and more connected. And we didn't stop there.

WestLink expanded service by 30% this year, added bus stop improvements, and adjusted schedules to better fit riders' lives - reducing wait times and creating smoother connections. On GroveLink, infrastructure upgrades are



transforming the rider experience. Aging shelters are being replaced, new landing pads and ADA features are improving accessibility, and no-parking zones are increasing visibility and safety at stops. Because at Ride Connection, we know: Bus stops are where people connect.

They're where neighbors greet one another, where independence takes shape, and where opportunity begins. A ride to work. A doctor's appointment. Groceries for the week. A visit with friends. Every Connector line helps turn those everyday moments into something worth riding for.

Since launching these service, Community Connectors have delivered 20,132 rides - trips that represent new jobs reached, appointments kept, errands accomplished, and connections made. Across the Connector network, ridership continues to climb as more people discover how community-centered transit can open doors and strengthen independence.

We're grateful to Washington County and community partners for their trust and shared commitment to mobility for all. Together, we're doing more than launching routes - we're strengthening the connections that keep our region moving forward.

Freedom in Motion

At 19 years old, Evelyn was ready to take control of her own life, but without reliable transportation skills, true independence felt out of reach. She didn't just want to get from place to place; she wanted the confidence and ability to navigate the world on her own.

Before connecting with Ride Connection, Evelyn relied entirely on her parents for transportation. Every shift at work, every church service, every visit with friends required coordinating schedules and asking for help. She wanted more than rides. She wanted the freedom to move through her world on her own.

This year, as Ride Connection celebrates the 20th anniversary of its RideWise program, Evelyn's story reflects the lasting impact travel training can have on a person's life. For two decades, RideWise has helped people gain the skills and confidence to navigate public transportation independently - creating opportunities for greater mobility, connection, and self-sufficiency.

“I knew I needed to be a lot more independent and needed access to get around,” Evelyn said. “I need to work to make my own money, so I started taking public transit. And I love it!”

That determination led her to Ride Connection's RideWise Travel Training Program. Through RideWise, Evelyn didn't just learn which bus to take - she learned how to read routes and schedules, problem-solve when plans change, navigate transfers, and travel safely and confidently.



Today, Evelyn wakes up at 5:30 a.m. to begin her four-hour roundtrip commute by public transit. It's a long journey, but it's hers. She uses the bus to get to work, attend church, visit friends, and explore the city. Each trip represents something bigger than transportation - it represents ownership of her future.

RideWise is about more than mobility. It's sustainable education by equipping people with disabilities like Evelyn with the knowledge and confidence to navigate public transit independently. Instead of providing a ride for a day, RideWise provides skills for a lifetime.

For Evelyn, that means sustainable freedom. It means earning her own paycheck, building her community, and shaping her adulthood on her own terms. The investment in her training today creates independence that will carry her forward for decades to come.

As RideWise marks 20 years of helping people discover independence through travel training, Evelyn's story is a powerful reminder of what that independence makes possible.

Evelyn isn't just riding the bus. She's driving her own future.

Mapping Mobility, One Customer at a Time

For 22 years, Richard has been a steady, welcoming presence at Ride Connection. What began in 2004 as a simple desire to give back quickly became one of the most meaningful commitments of his life. At the time, he was a caregiver for a quadriplegic man and wanted to use his free hours in a way that truly mattered. After seeing an online posting for Ride Connection, he decided to check it out. “I went to find out what it was all about,” he says. “And I was hooked.”

Working closely with people with disabilities had already shaped his outlook.

“Never underestimate people,” he says. “With determination, no matter where you are, you can do anything.”

Through Ride Connection, those lessons come to life every day. He loves that the organization fills gaps other services can’t and creates access and independence for riders across his community.

Over the years, Richard has learned nearly every bus route in Portland and found the trips that suit him best. “I always look forward to it,” he says. What keeps him coming back, though, is the human connection. “It feels amazing when customers remember me and look delighted to see me again. They deeply appreciate what we’re doing for them and with them.”

His personal motto is simple: “Do the least harm and the most good. Become your best and share your best with the world.” That spirit has guided his decades of service, including being named Ride Connection’s Ambassador of the Year in 2013, and continues to shape every ride he takes.

“If you really want to do a good service for this city, Ride Connection can’t be beat,” Richard says. “I wouldn’t be here for 22 years if I hadn’t had a lot of wonderful feedback from the staff and customers.”

Through thousands of trips and countless conversations, Richard has helped ensure that connection, dignity, and kindness are always along for the ride.



An Evening in Support of Ride Connection



Ride Connection's 2025 annual fundraising event, An Evening in Support of Ride Connection, brought together community members, partners, and supporters for a memorable night of celebration, generosity, and gratitude.

The evening raised over \$72,000 to support our mission of providing accessible, responsive transportation to older adults, people with disabilities, and underserved communities across the region. This year's event was especially exciting as we welcomed our new CEO, Andy Nelson, and celebrated the incredible connections our services make possible. We were also thrilled to honor one of our amazing customers, Adele, and highlight her treasured friendship with one of her favorite drivers, Jay. Their relationship is a heartwarming reminder of how Ride Connection is about more than rides; it's about building meaningful relationships and fostering community. The evening celebrated the power of generosity and community support in keeping people connected, independent, and active. Together, we are creating a future where everyone can move freely, live fully, and thrive without barriers.

Ride Connection by the Numbers

Total Revenue

\$93,389,503

Total Assets

\$44,574,636



1,653,913

**Total miles
driven**



327,498

Total trips

provided by Ride Connection
employees, partners
and volunteers



17,272

**Total volunteer
hours**



6,371

**Unduplicated
Riders**

RideWise Travel Training Outreach

Total presentations 15

Total group trips 6

Total participants 301

Environmental

Greenhouse gas
emissions eliminated 668
metric tons

Cars removed from
roads for a year 145

Trip Type

Medical 47%

Shopping, Grocery 25%

Support Services 11%

Recreation 13%

School, Work, Volunteering 4%

Thank you to all our generous donors!

\$150,000+

Providence Health & Services

\$50,000

Maybelle Clark Macdonald Fund

\$30,000 - \$49,999

OCF Joseph E. Weston Public
Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Bland Family Foundation
Intel Corporation
ITN America
The Lamb-Baldwin Foundation
Dan and Carolyn O'Doherty
Vijay and Elta Roberts
TriMet
Wyss Foundation

\$2,500 - \$4,999

CareOregon
Heritage Bank
Kaiser Permanente Northwest
OnPoint Community Credit Union
Vicki and Rod Schmall
Umpqua Bank
Robert and Marla Weiner

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Harshdeep Bhasin
Buchalter
John Cornyn
Thomas Craig
Full Path Transit Technology
Sarah Gabel
Heidi Ganum
Gresham Ford
Bernice Howe
Jathan Janove
Anne J McHugh
Diane and Steve Meyer
Andy Nelson and Kathy Gorman
Mark Olson
Chase Schetky
Linda Simmons
Trillium Community Health Plan
Peter Truax

The Varga Group
Julie Wilcke Pilmer
Park and Martha Woodworth

\$500 - \$999

Patrick Almand
Alan Best
Christina and Zachary Cooper
Michael Fillingame
Leslie and Eric Foren
Scott Gates
Cecilia Gates
Jean Glanz
Suzanne Hanifin
Temesgen Harkiso
Linda Jacob
Pamela McKeen
Tom and Lisa Mills
Diane Moskowitz
Emily and Travis Motter
Kurt Mueller
Jeff Olson
Dorthey Porter
Warren Rathbun
Sherie Sampsel
Theresa Theis
Laura and Adam Troxel
Norville and Janet Weiss
Tom Wells and Melissa Parkerton

\$250 - \$499

William and Naomi Adix
Reilly Anderson
Sally Angaran
Elise Bouneff
Kurt Brunswick
Jon and Karen Burkhardt
B. Joan Burrows
Jan Campbell
Cam Chu
Eileen Collins-Mastel
Myrna Faris
Kirk Foster
Fred Meyer
Stephanie Gonzalez
Linda and James Heesacker
Laura Heller
Shirley Jensen

Robert Kellogg
Brenda Kruger
Wanda and John McFarland
MaryAnne Miles
Michael Morris
Christine Natonek
Dean Orr
Sue Peltier
Dorthea Petersen
Kristin Pineda
Dale Gregory Potts
Claudia Robertson
Stephen Roberts
Kyle Schademan
Rachel Smith
The Standard
Alison and Wayne Stoll
Lindsay Swanson
Transpo Group USA
Joyce Vickaryous
Jean Vitali
Elaine Wells
Marge Willis

\$100 - \$249

Alison Arella
Phoebe Ashford
Asian Health and Service Center
Mia Autumn
Phyllis Barbour
Barry Bolewicz
Margaret Bratcher
Alfreedia Brown
Mayor Frank Bubenik
Eva Bunika
Erika Byrd
Claudette Clark
Suzanne Crampton
Juliane Cross
Lila Crownover
Ninfa Cruzada
Theresa De Luca
Christina Deffebach
Anne Dong
Katherine Durtschi
Pamela Dwyer
Peter Edgerton
Carole Favilla
Sharon Findling

Lee Girard
John Grabow
June Griffis
Carol Gubert
Ellen Hamaker
Lynne Hanson
Kathleen Hatley
John and Elizabeth Haunsperger
Katherine Hawkins
Denise Hinton
Sherri Hirsch
Charles Jochim
Maria Menor and John Johnson
Sally and John Jones
Sharon Kassakian
Doreen Kines
Dolores King
Ryan Kliewer
Rosie Kuroye
Brian LaCroix
Sydney Larison
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Pearl Lee
Valerie Levy
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Rita and Michael Llewellyn
Nu Luong-Moore
Bonnie MacGinnis
Anne McLaughlin
Ryan Miller
Norma Millner
Lillian Mills
Thomas Mills
Morton and Natalie Mondschein
Spencer Moore
Mary Annie Mullett
Richard Mullinax
New Possibilities Center, Inc.
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Jack Ney
Nike
Margaret Norton
Kathryn O'Loughlin
Jennifer Palacios
Kay Parrott

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Barbara Troxel
Maria Valdovinos
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Rick Vasquez
Ligia Vela
Sarah Vhay
Washington County
Washington County Disability,
Aging &
Veteran Services
Susan Webber
Shelley and Mitch Yoder
Tori Youngbauer
Nancy Zebergs
Mark Zollner

IN-KIND DONORS

Diversity Café
Fire on the Mountain
Forest Grove Senior and
Community Center
Hopscotch Portland
McMenamins Pubs & Breweries
¿Por Qué No?
The Portland Bottle Shop
Portland Center Stage
Travel Portland

BOARD MEMBERS

Leslie Foren, *Chair*

Community Advocate

Alison Stoll, *Vice Chair*

Executive Director, Central NE Neighbors

Vicki Schmall, *Secretary*

Professor Emeritus/Gerontology
Specialist, Oregon State University
Executive Director, Aging Concern

Michael Fillingame, *Treasurer*

Senior Counsel, Buchalter

Rachel Smith, *MPH*

Senior Program Manager, Population
Health at Providence Health & Services

Pete Truax

Former Mayor, City of Forest Grove

Wen-lin Wang

Retired, Senior Staff Software
Engineering Manager, Intel

Park Woodworth

Retired, Paratransit Manager, King
County Metro and TriMet

Zak Shawver, *Advisor*

Lead Disability & Aging Services
Coordinator, Washington County
Department of Health and Human
Services Disability, Aging and
Veteran Services

**Thank you for helping us link accessible, responsive
transportation alternatives with individual and community needs!**

Planned Giving



For many of our supporters, the decision to give to Ride Connection is rooted in a belief that mobility is essential to independence and opportunity.

Including Ride Connection in your estate plans is a powerful way to carry that belief forward. A planned gift ensures that future generations of older adults and people with disabilities will continue to have access to reliable transportation long after your lifetime. It is a thoughtful, lasting expression of your values and your commitment to an accessible, connected community.

Estate gifts of all sizes help sustain and strengthen our services for years to come. Whether through a bequest in your will, a beneficiary designation, or another planned giving option, your legacy can leave a meaningful impact while still meeting the needs of your loved ones.

If you would like to explore how to include Ride Connection in your estate plans, please visit our website or contact Kelly Stover at kstover@rideconnection.org 503-290-3693





Volunteer

with Ride Connection

Across our region, thousands of people rely on Ride Connection each year to reach medical appointments, grocery stores, community centers, and other essential destinations. As our population grows, the demand for transportation continues to increase. While we are deeply proud of the rides we provide, the reality is that each year we must turn down thousands of ride requests due to limited driver availability and capacity. The need is ongoing, and expanding our volunteer network is one of the most meaningful ways we can respond.

When you volunteer with Ride Connection, you help close that gap. You make it possible for someone to pick up prescriptions on time, attend a workforce training program, or keep a customer connected to their community. Just as importantly, you help strengthen a system that keeps our community accessible and inclusive. Volunteering is flexible and designed to fit your schedule, whether you can offer a few hours a month or more regularly. We provide training and support every step of the way – ensuring you have the support and guidance you need to make a lasting impact in your community.

If you're looking for a practical, tangible way to give back, we invite you to join us!



To learn more, contact Katie Myszka
kmyszka@rideconnection.org

Together, we can ensure more neighbors get where they need to go.