

Tesla, the US-based maker of advanced electric cars, say the side view mirrors' bulky protuberances hurt aerodynamic performance and fuel economy.

Instead, they want American regulators to let them put in side view cameras. The young but successful automaker have been laying the foundation for their regulatory push for two years, and they've timed their NHTSA petition to coincide with the agency's recent finalisation of rear-camera requirements.



Tesla aren't going it alone, either; the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers support and have co-signed the petition. The Alliance, in a statement, said "Today's mirrors provide a robust and simple means to view the surrounding areas of a vehicle. Cameras will open opportunities for additional design flexibility and innovation." Such cameras—sometimes even equipped with turn signal repeaters like the mirrors they replace—have appeared on concept cars, including most recently on the Hyundai Intrado at the Geneva Motor Show.

Watch DVN for coverage of ongoing developments if, as expected, NHTSA open a docket for public comment on the petition.