

After over 10 years' research into car-to-car communications, American auto safety regulators have published their plan to require cars to be able to talk and listen with each other so as to warn drivers of impending danger.



The V2V (vehicle-to-vehicle) equipment will cost an estimated USD \$350 per vehicle in 2020, according to NHTSA. The agency thinks V2V technology could save thousands of lives and prevent hundreds of thousands of crashes each year by providing cars with information they never will be able to gather simply from cameras and sensors.

Just two of the possible features that rely on V2V technology—one that warns drivers if they don't have enough time to make a turn across traffic, and another that urges them to stop if another car is about to run a red light—could prevent 25,000 to 592,000 crashes and save 49 to 1,083 lives annually if the entire U.S. vehicle fleet were equipped, according to NHTSA's report.

The V2V system is configured such that cars swap messages 10 times per second about their position in space, which direction they are headed and how quickly they are moving in that direction. If two cars are on a collision course, the driver can be given a warning. Eight major automakers—Ford, GM, Honda., Hyundai., Daimler, Nissan., Toyota., and VW—have been developing V2V technology in tandem with the government through a group called the Crash Avoidance Metrics Partnership, or CAMP. Technology suppliers such as Cisco Systems and Denso are among the companies offering V2V communications equipment and software to the industry.