

U.S. auto safety regulators have proposed requiring all new vehicles to be equipped with vehicle-to-vehicle communication systems, citing the technology's significant potential to reduce crashes.



The proposed mandate, released by the Department of Transportation, would require all new cars and light trucks to have DSRC (dedicated short-range communication) systems that transmit and receive basic messages about the vehicles' speed, location, braking and other data. DSRC systems allow cars to "talk" to other vehicles on the road and to infrastructure equipped with the systems, allowing drivers to "see" round corners and be warned of potential collisions.

Under the proposal, automakers would be required to equip half of all new cars with the technology two years after NHTSA issues a final rule. Full equipment would be required two years further on. U.S. officials have said the technology could potentially reduce non-impaired traffic crashes by 80% once fully deployed.

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, a trade group representing General Motors, Toyota, Volkswagen, and other major automakers, noted the system is already being tested.