



PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLIST
FOCUSED APPROACH TO SAFETY

Improving Pedestrian Safety Through Vehicle Design and Technology

Thursday, April 17, 2025



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

ZERO IS OUR GOAL
A SAFE SYSTEM IS HOW WE GET THERE



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Webinar Logistics

- Please post questions at any time
- We will be saving time at the end of the session for questions and discussion
- Webinar slides and recording will be posted at


[https://www.pedbikeinfo.org/
webinars/webinar_details.cfm?id=133](https://www.pedbikeinfo.org/webinars/webinar_details.cfm?id=133)

Continuing Education Credits

- Brief questionnaire following webinar for sharing feedback. Submit a response to receive your certificate of attendance.
- Information about webinar archive materials, recording and certificates of attendance will be sent in a follow-up email this afternoon.



Webinar Objectives

- Learn about the role that vehicle technology and design play in determining the likelihood and severity of crashes involving pedestrians.
 - Identify vehicle design and technology improvements that can improve safety for people outside of vehicles.
 - Bring lessons and takeaways back to local, regional and Statewide pedestrian safety initiatives.
- 

Panelist Introductions

- Sam Monfort, IIHS
- Becky Mueller, IIHS
- Greg Brannon, AAA
- Alex Epstein, Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

IIHS pedestrian research

Pedestrian Safety and Vehicle Technology/Design Webinar

April 17, 2025



Samuel Monfort, PhD

Senior Statistician

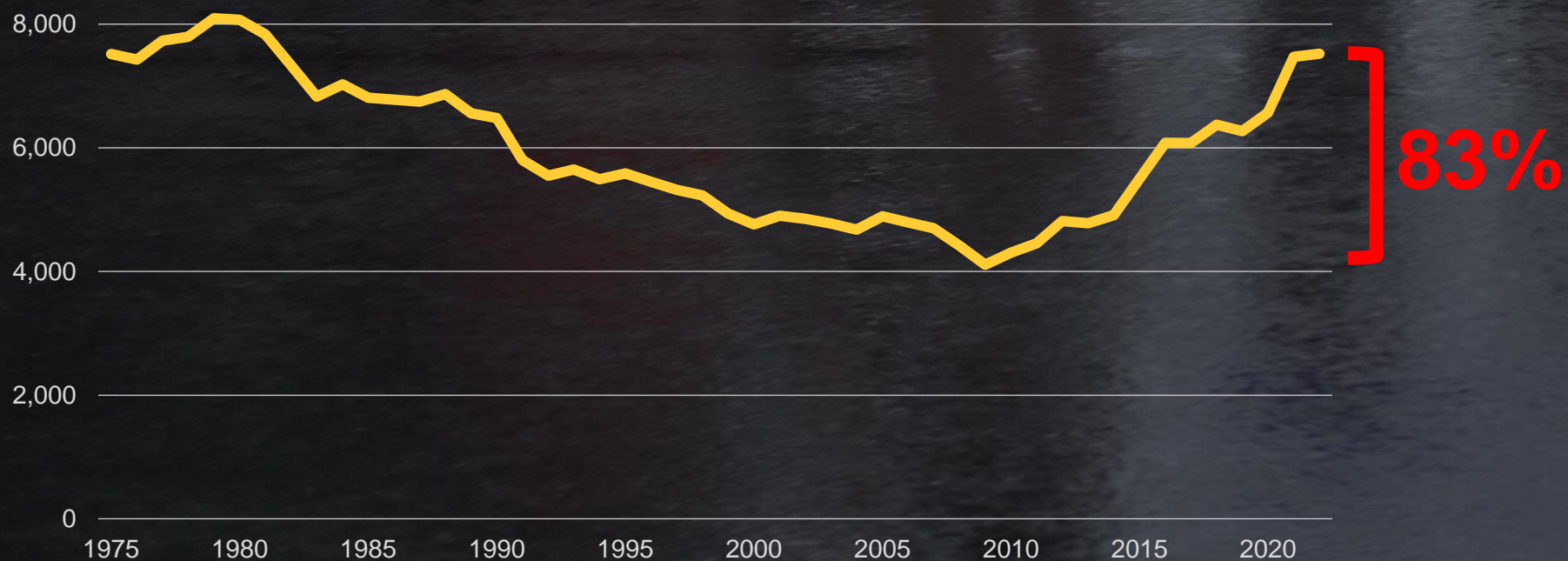
Becky Mueller

Senior Research Engineer



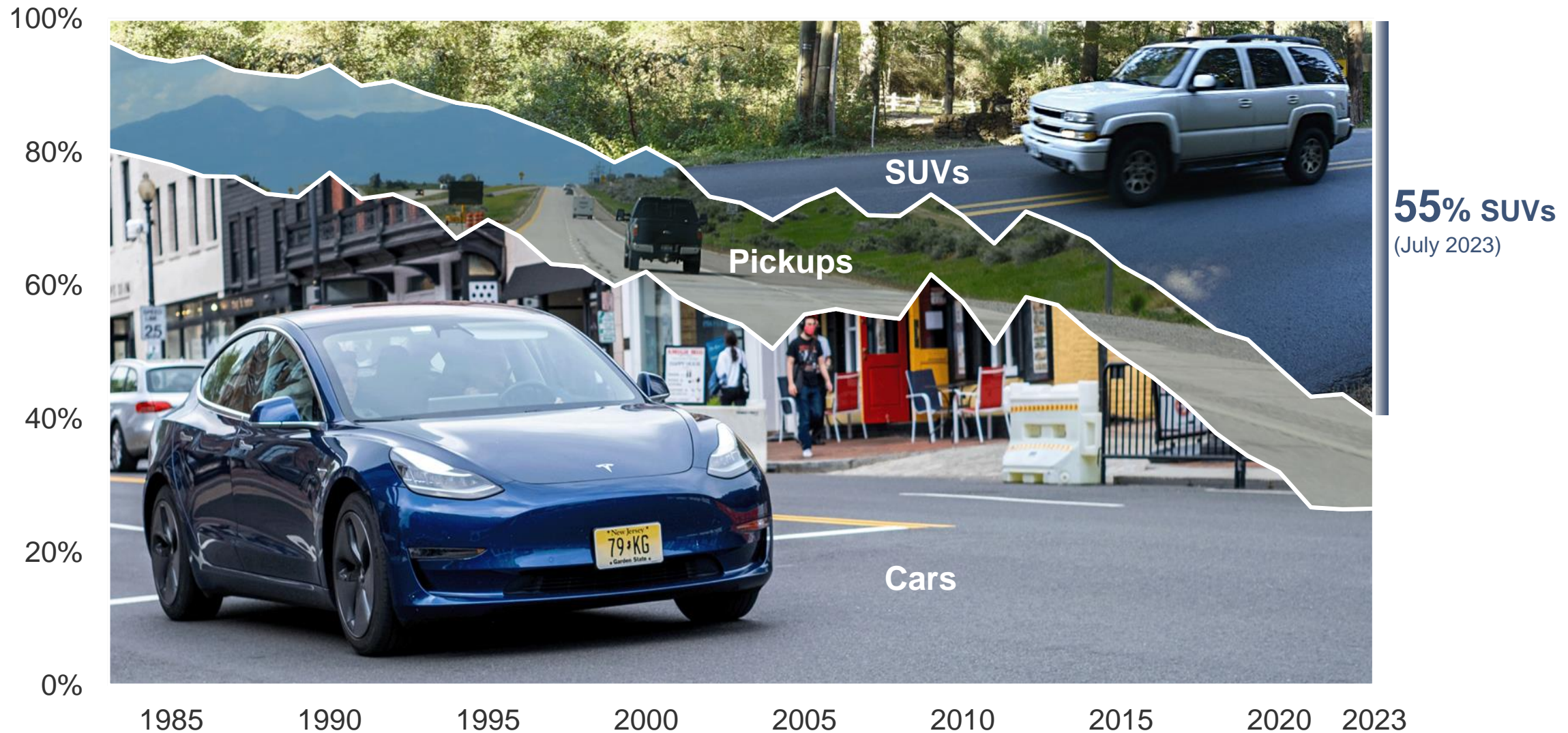
U.S. pedestrian fatalities

1975-2022



Distribution of U.S. vehicles by type

1983-2023 model years

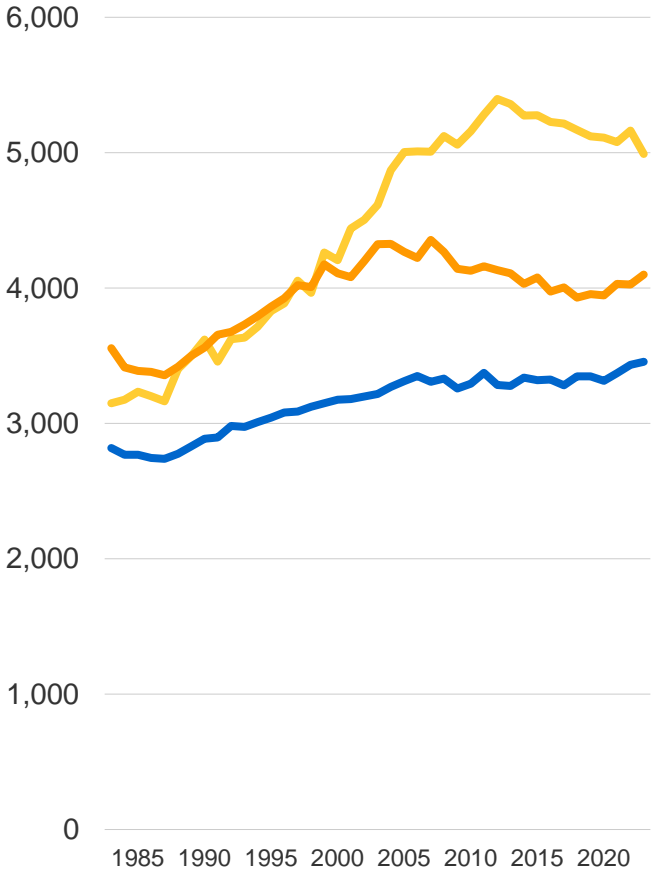


Changes in vehicle specs

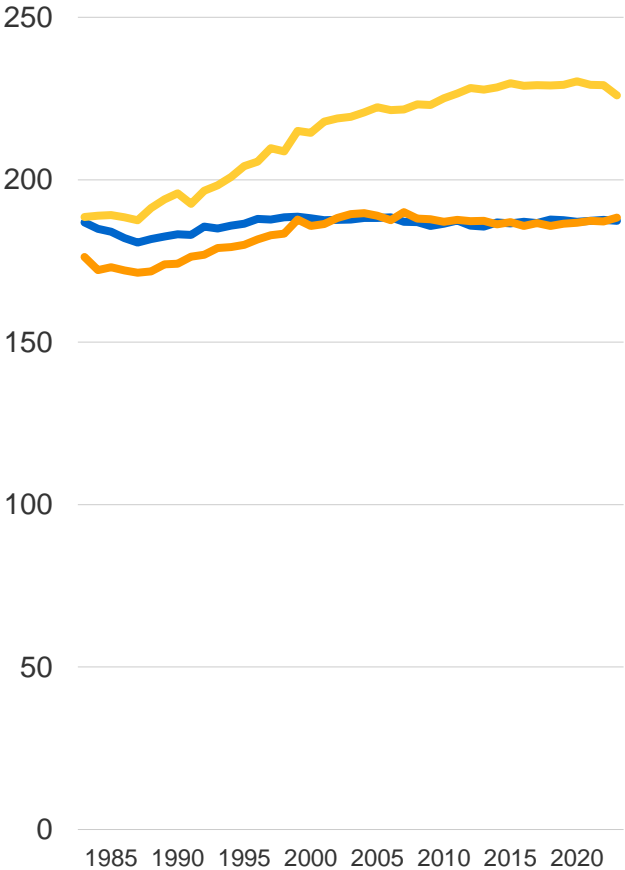
1983-2023 model years

Cars SUVs Pickups

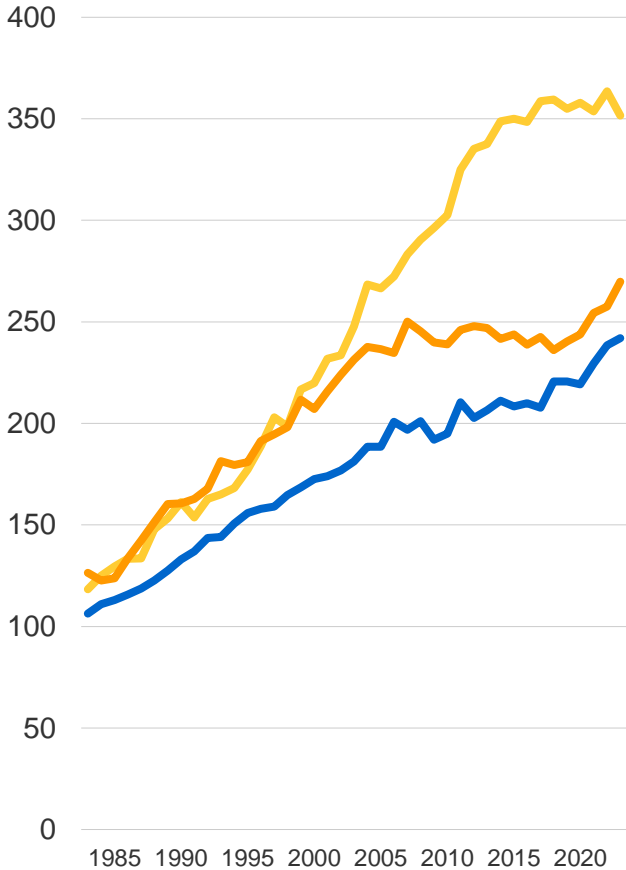
Average curb weight in pounds



Average length in inches



Average horsepower



Previous research

Vehicle size and pedestrian injuries

Pedestrian hip height relative to vehicle front end height is a key predictor of crash kinematics and injury outcomes

(Ballesteros 2005, Longhitano 2005, Roudsari 2005)

Vehicle front-ends taller than hip height are more likely to throw a pedestrian to the ground

(Roudsari 2005, Submit 2008)

Previously available datasets reflect older US field data (PCDS) or countries where American style pickups are not common

Research question

- ▶ How does the growing US vehicle fleet influence pedestrian injury patterns?

Ballesteros, M.F., Dischinger, P.C., and Langenberg, P. (2004) Pedestrian injuries and vehicle type in Maryland, 1995–1999. *Accident Analysis & Prevention* 36 (1): 73-81.

Longhitano, D., Henary, B., Bhalla, K., Ivarsson, J., and Crandall, J. (2005) Influence of vehicle body type on pedestrian injury distribution. *SAE Transactions*: 2283-2288.

Roudsari, B.S., Mock, C.N., and Kaufman, R. (2005) An evaluation of the association between vehicle type and the source and severity of pedestrian injuries. *Traffic Injury Prevention* 6 (2): 185-192.

Subit, D., Kerrigan, J., Crandall, J., Fukuyama, K., Yamakazi, K., Kamui, K., and Yasuki, T. (Year) Pedestrian-vehicle interaction: Kinematics and injury analysis of four full scale tests. *Proc. 2008 IRCOBI Conference*.

Datasets

International Center for Automotive Medicine (Pedestrian Consortium)

Vulnerable road user Injury Prevention Alliance (VIPA)

- ▶ 211 pedestrians (data collection ongoing)
- ▶ Founded 2015; MY 2005 or newer vehicles
- ▶ Impact speed from modeling and formulas

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Vulnerable Road User Indepth Crash Investigation Study (VICIS)

- ▶ 92 pedestrians from 4 collection centers in US
- ▶ Collected 2022; MY 2004 or newer vehicles
- ▶ Impact speed from EDRs and formulas

State Crash Data

Police-reported crashes aggregated from 7 states

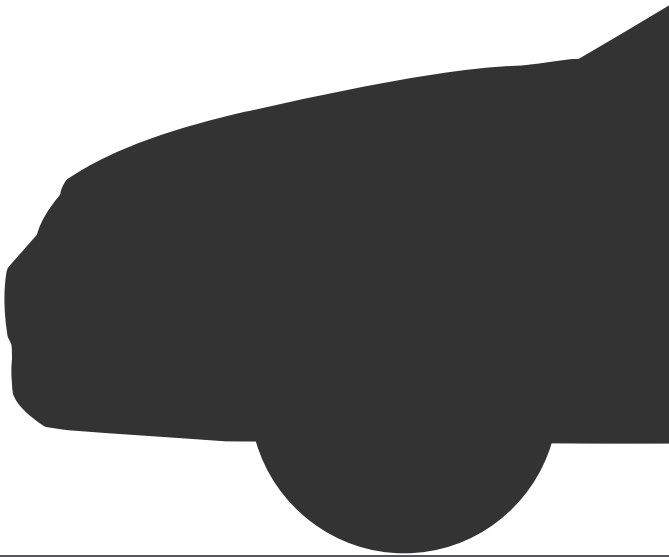
- ▶ 17,897 pedestrians; 664 unique vehicle designs
- ▶ Crashes from 2017 - 2022
- ▶ Fatality outcomes but no impact speed

Tall, blunt vehicles put pedestrians at risk

Risk of pedestrian death in a crash, from database of nearly 18,000 crashes

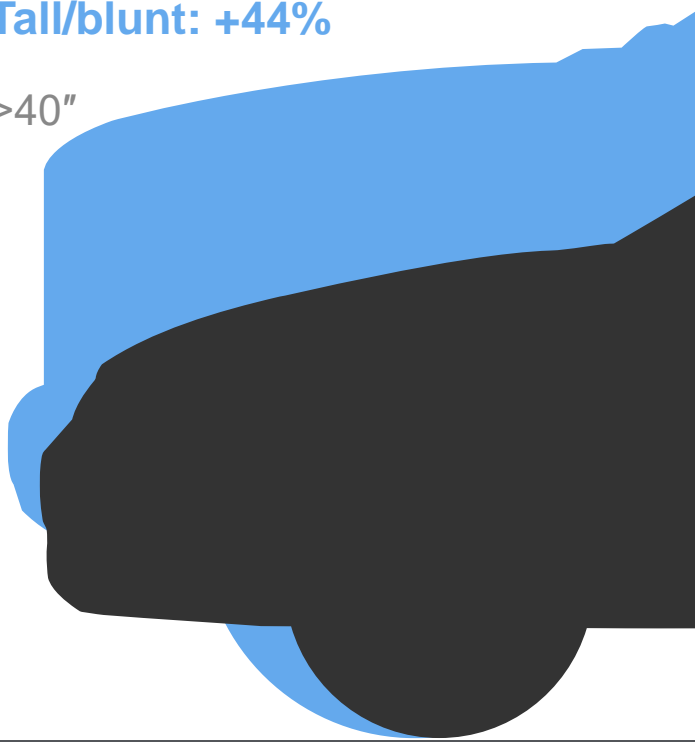
BASELINE: low/sloped

$\leq 30''$



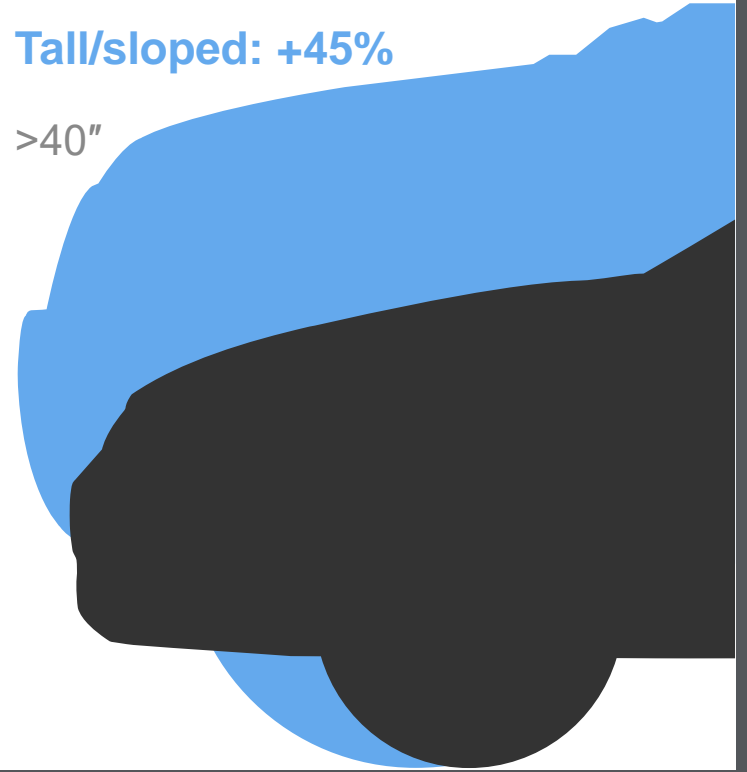
Tall/blunt: +44%

$>40''$



Tall/sloped: +45%

$>40''$

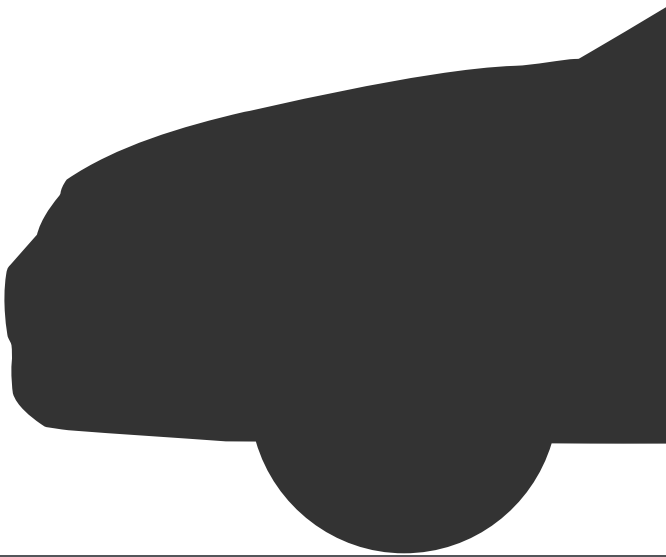


Tall, blunt vehicles put pedestrians at risk

Risk of pedestrian death in a crash, from database of nearly 18,000 crashes

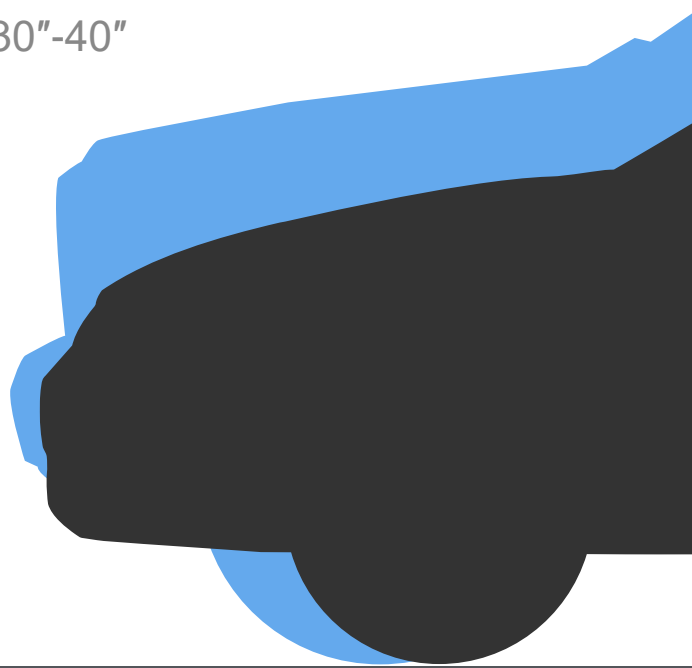
BASELINE: low/sloped

$\leq 30''$



Medium/blunt: +26%

30"-40"

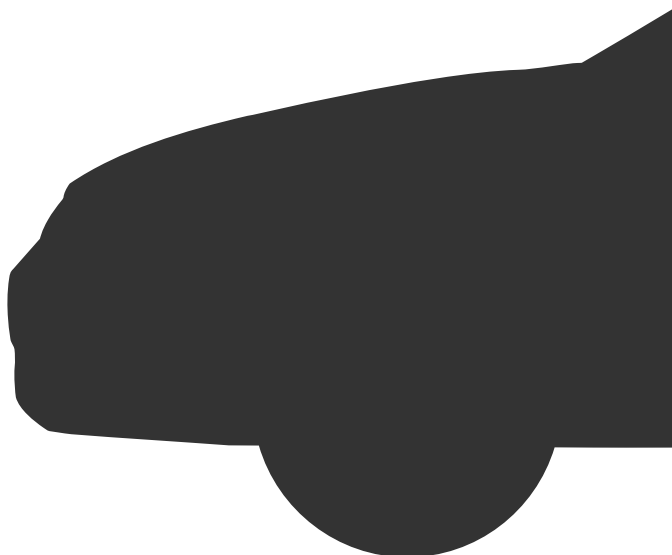


Tall, blocky vehicles put pedestrians at risk

Risk of pedestrian death in a crash, from database of nearly 18,000 crashes

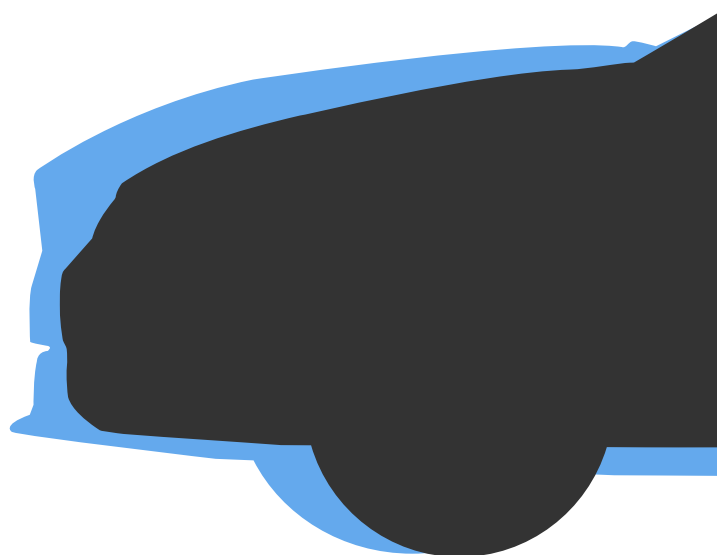
BASELINE: low/sloped

$\leq 30"$



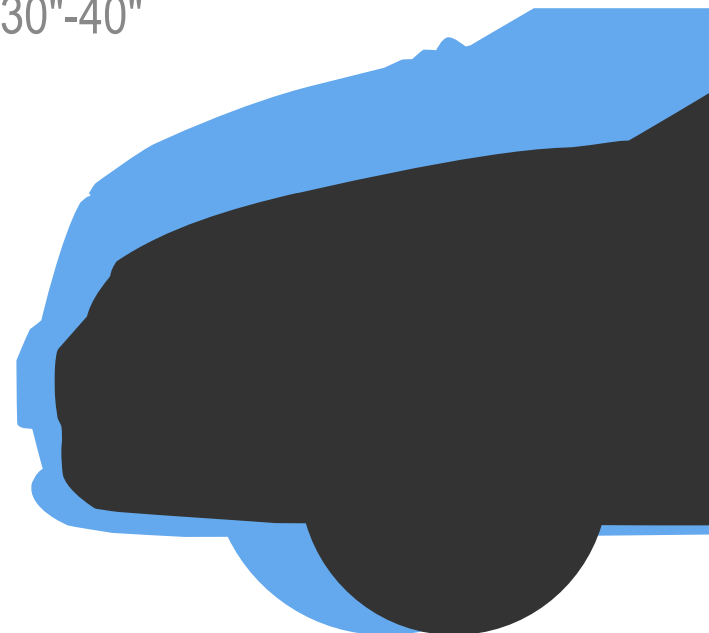
Low/blunt: similar risk

$\leq 30"$



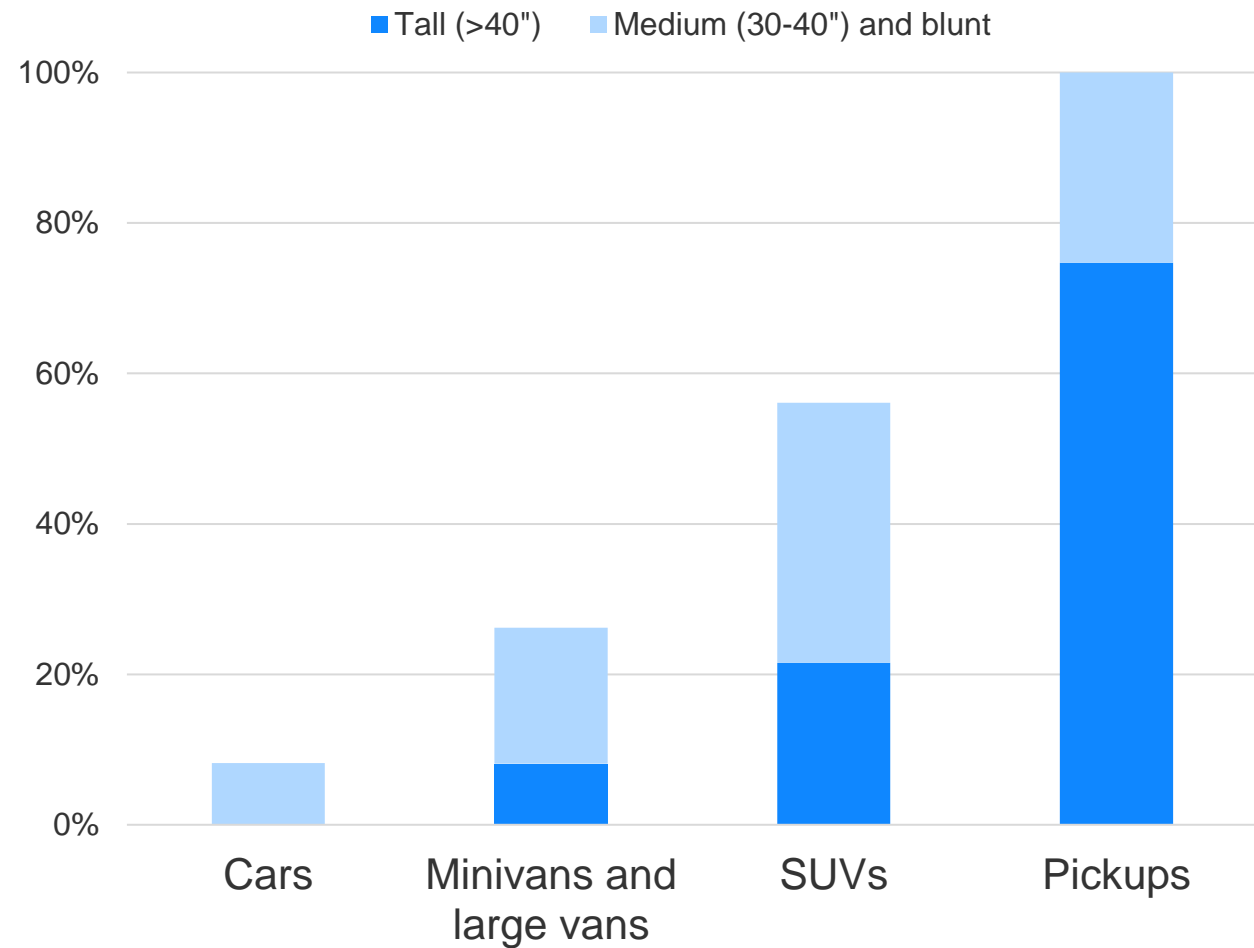
Medium/sloped: similar risk

30"-40"



56% of SUVs and
100% of pickups
had front-end shapes
with increased
fatality risk

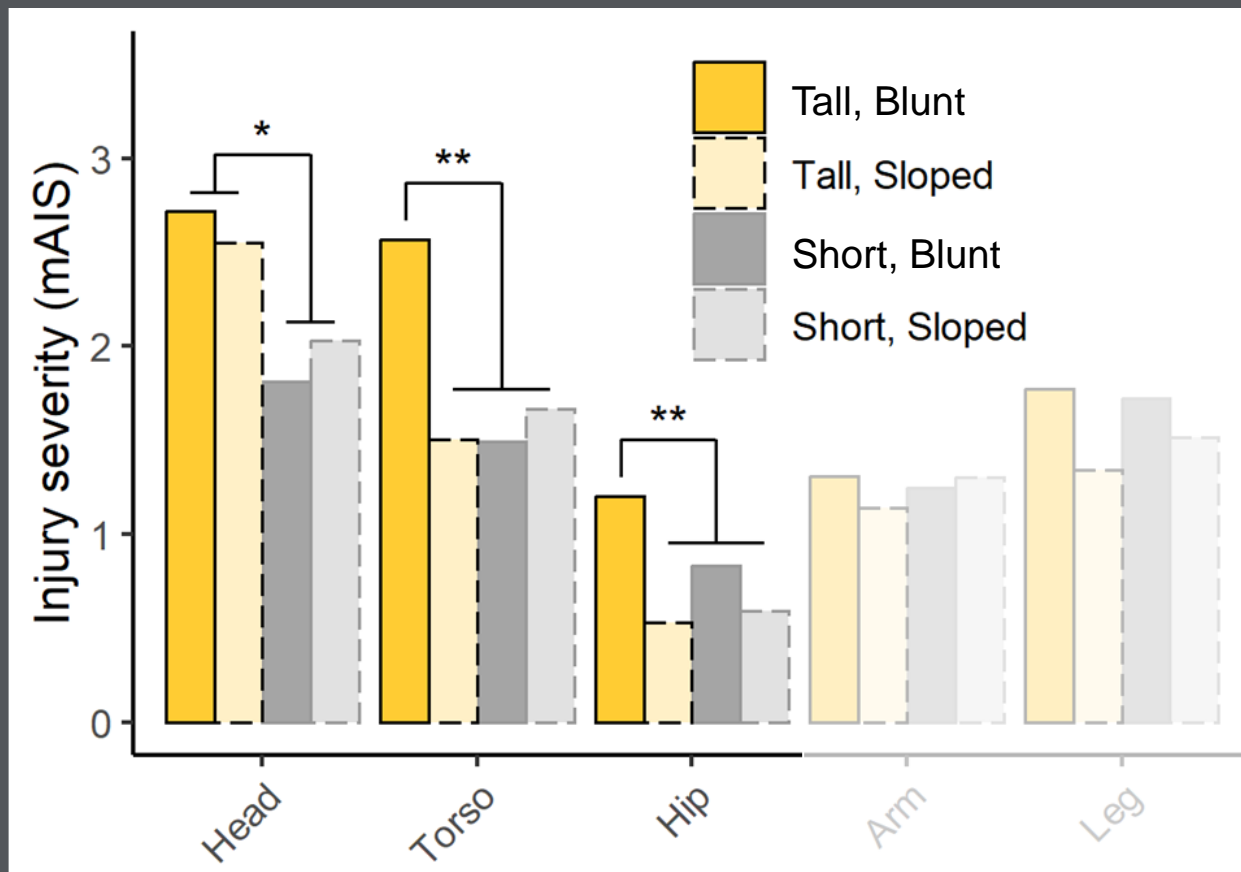
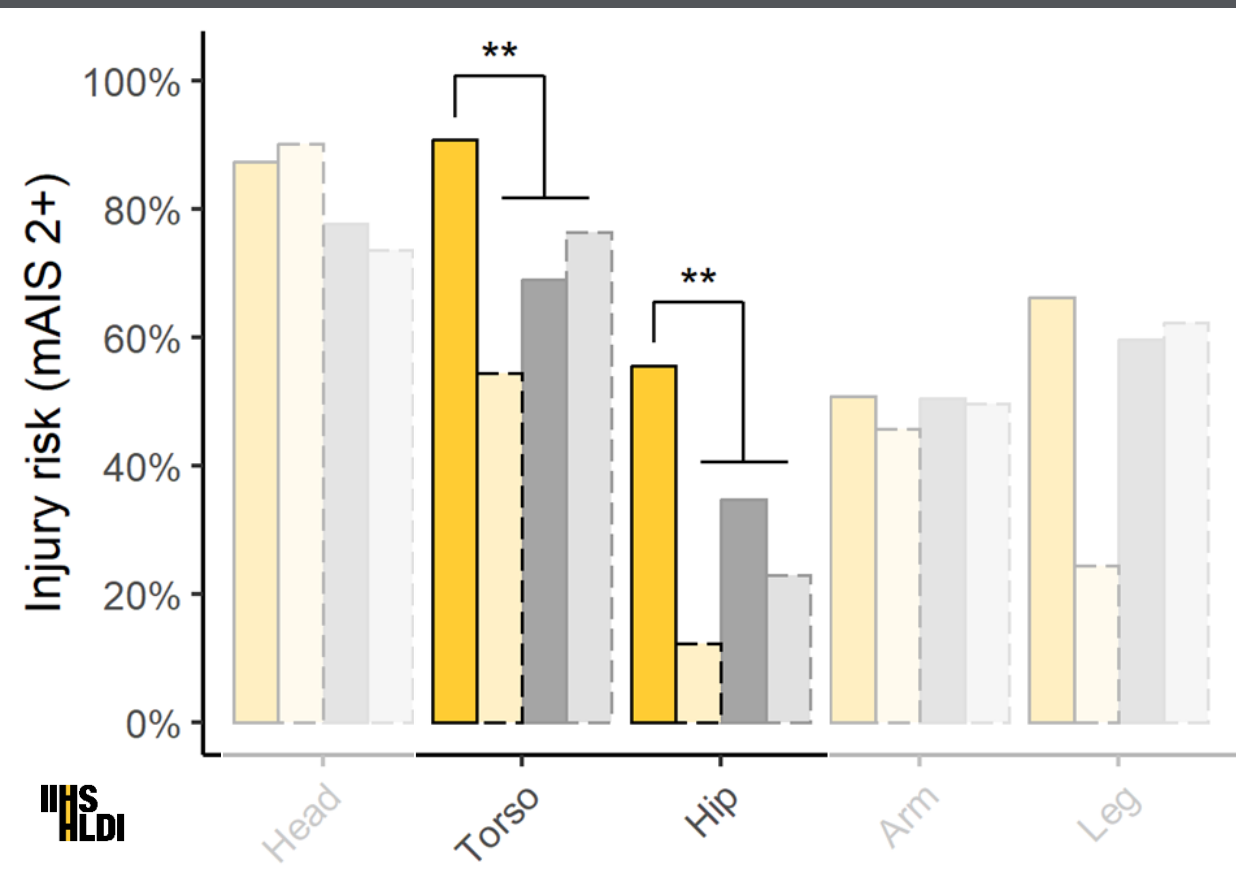
Percent of study vehicles with higher-risk front-end shapes



Excess injury risk stems from differences in torso, hip, head injuries

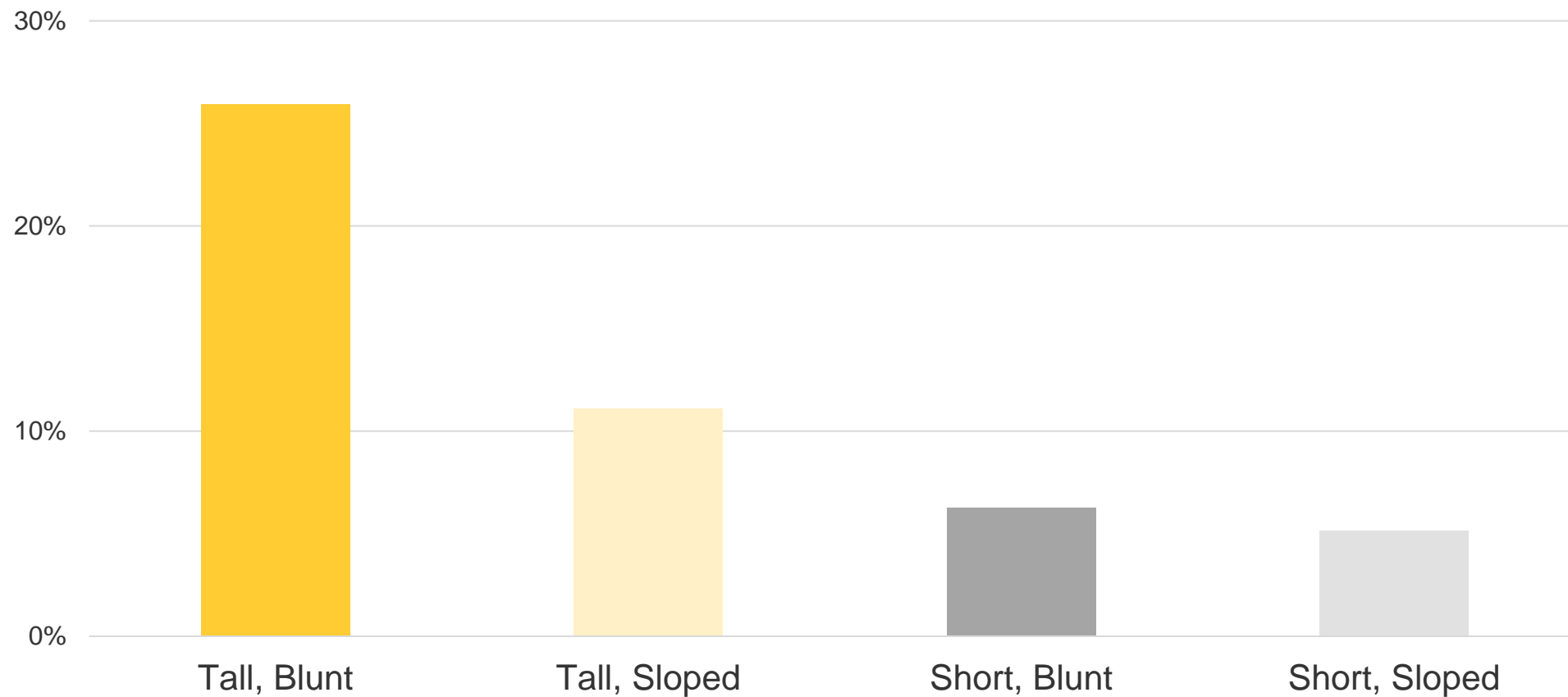
Analysis of 121 in-depth pedestrian crash records between 2015-21

- ▶ Tall vehicles injured head **more severely**
- ▶ Tall, blunt vehicles injured torso, hip **more often** and **more severely**



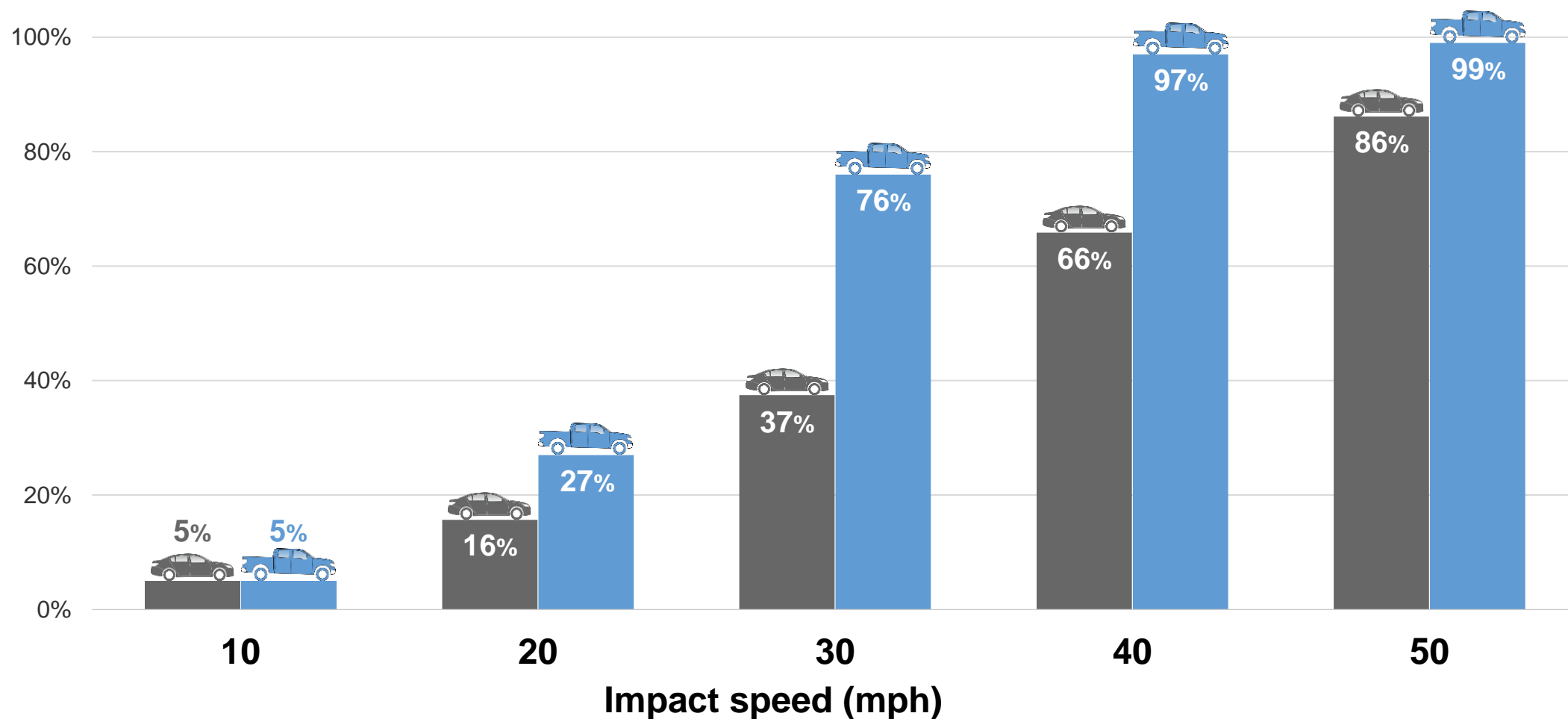
Percent of pedestrians thrown forward after impact by striking vehicle front-end shape

In crashes with moderate or greater injury severity (AIS 2+), from in-depth crash investigations

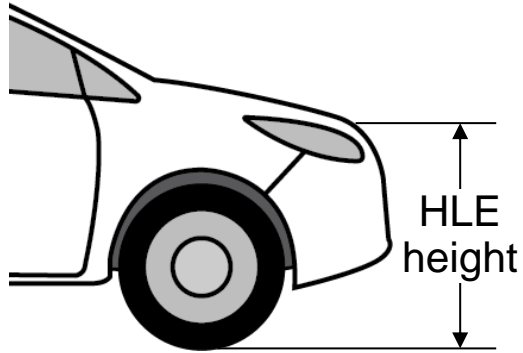


Risk of serious injury to a struck pedestrian by impact speed for median car and median pickup

Monfort, 2024



Measurements for analysis

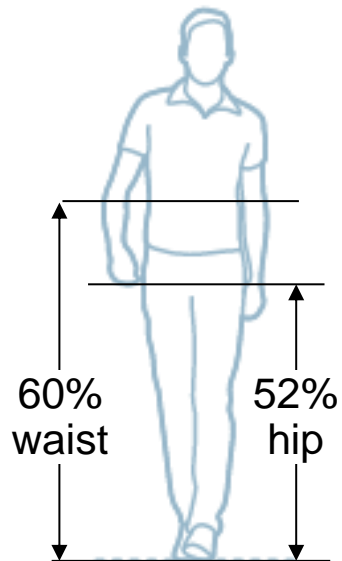


Categories for study

HLE<Ped – both pedestrian hip and waist are above vehicle HLE height

HLE=Ped – pedestrian hip is below, ped waist is above HLE

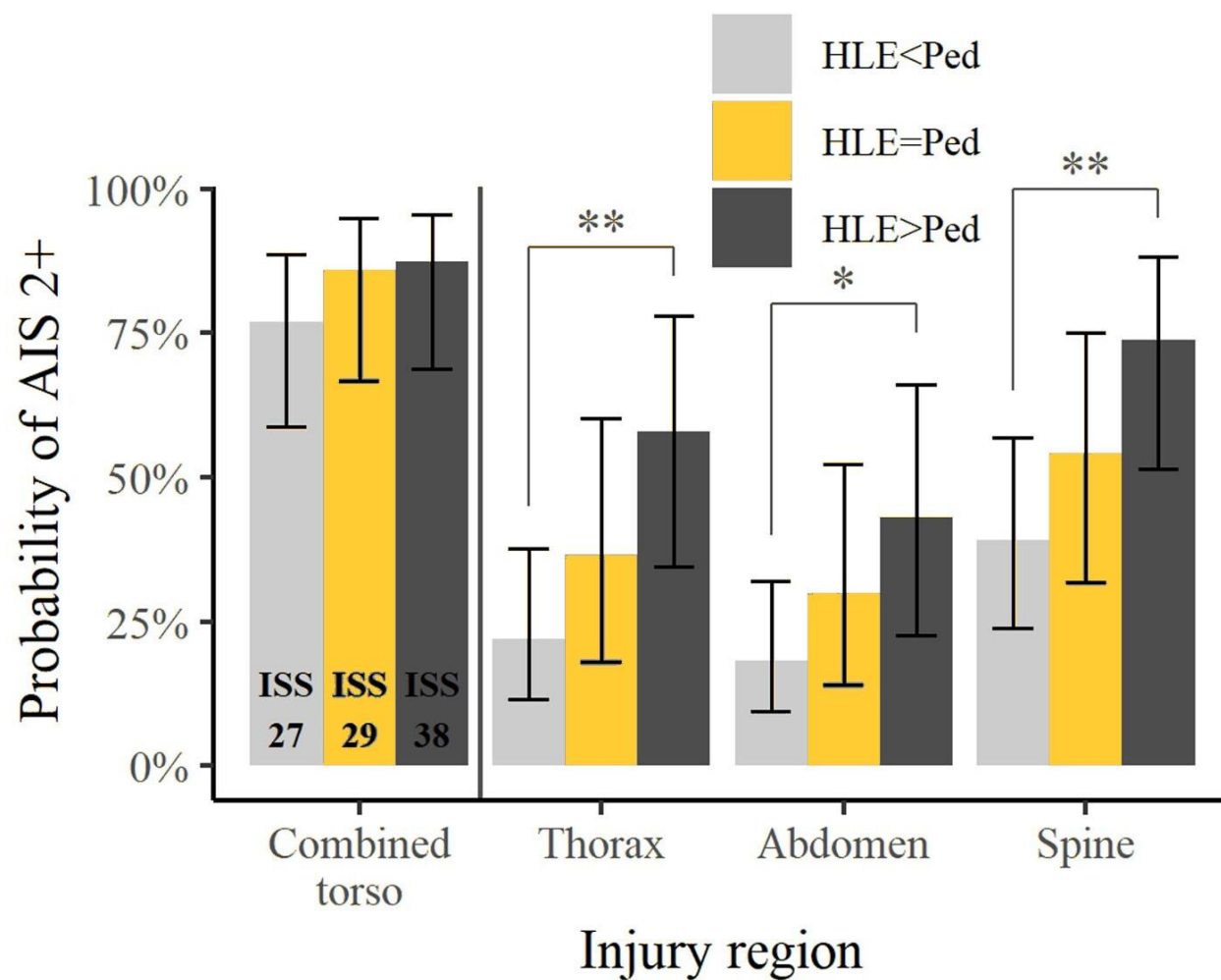
HLE>Ped – pedestrian hip and waist are below HLE



Factors to compare

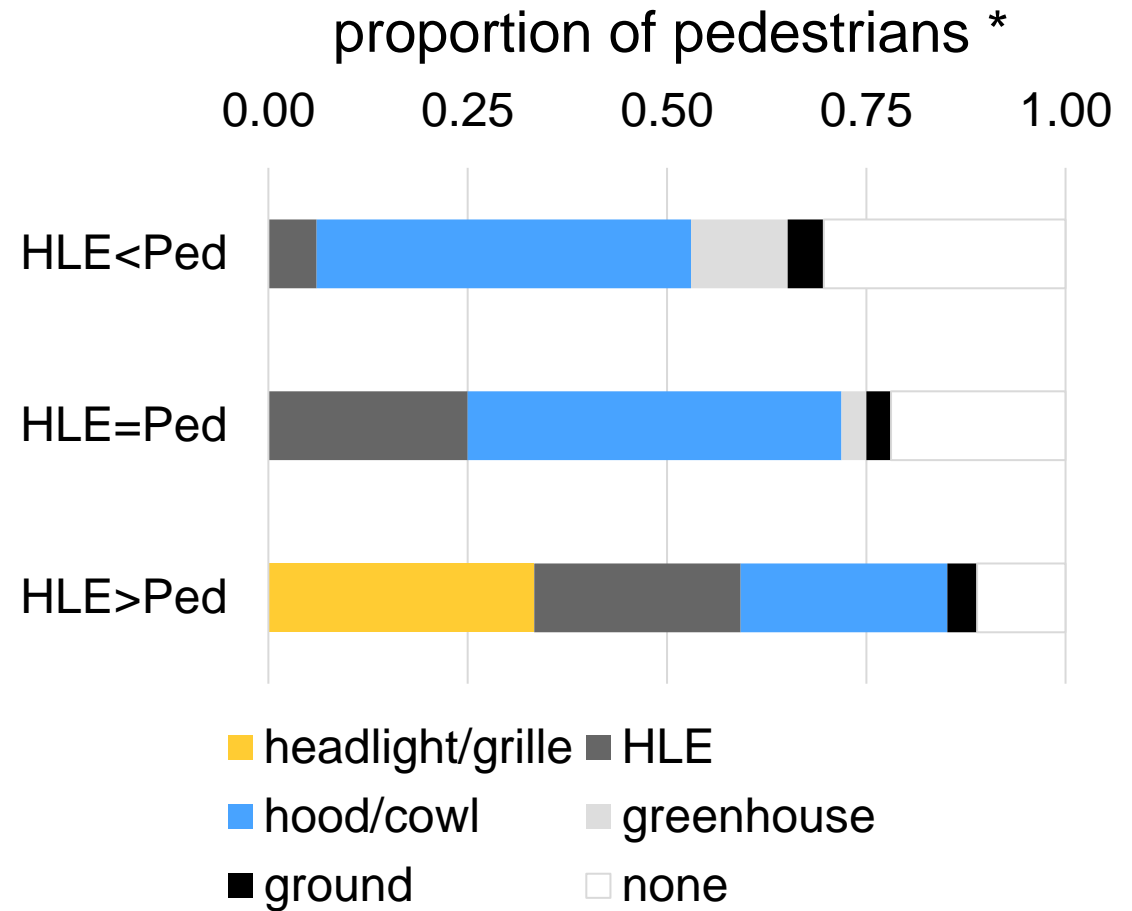
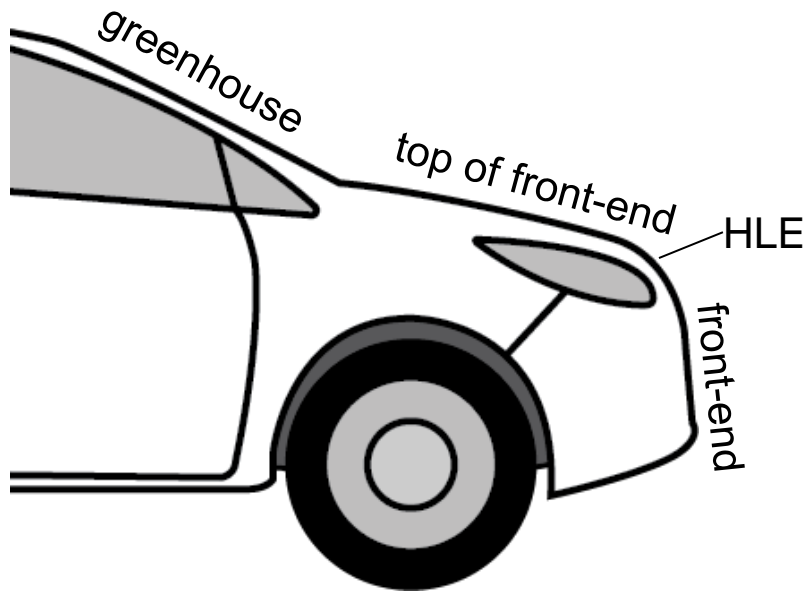
- ▶ MAIS for thorax, abdomen, spine and injury sources
- ▶ Combined torso: thorax, abdomen, spine and source of max severity injury

Probability of MAIS 2+ torso injuries by vehicle height category



Logistic regression controlling for age, sex, impact speed and pedestrian orientation * $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$

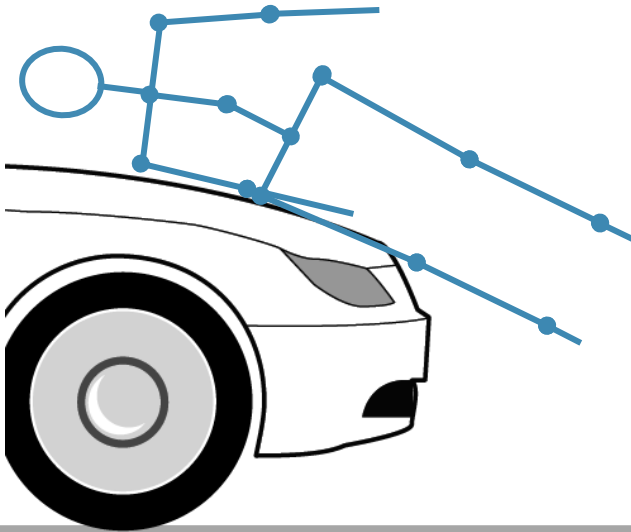
Injury source for MAIS2+ torso injury



Chi-squared statistical test $p=0.05$ significance * $p<0.001$

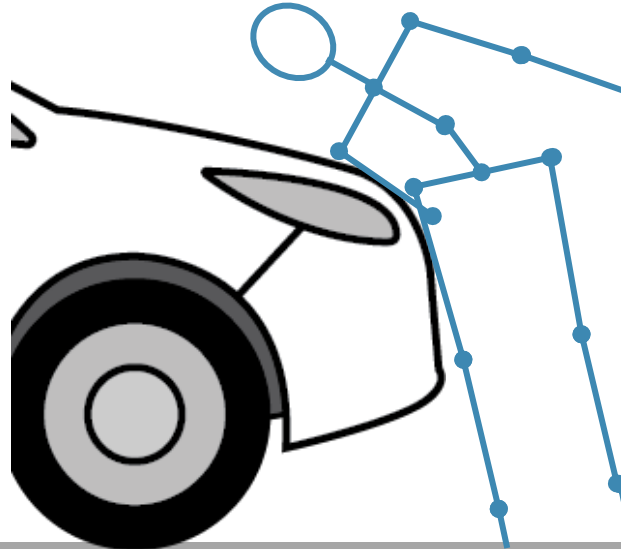
Torso kinematics and relative vehicle height

$HLE < Ped$



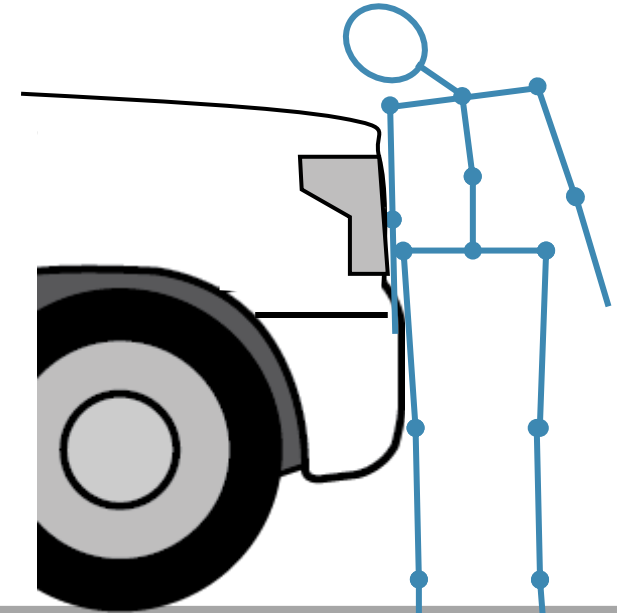
Hip above HLE
Waist above HLE

$HLE = Ped$



Hip below HLE
Waist above HLE

$HLE > Ped$



Hip below HLE
Waist below HLE

Summary

- ▶ This study examined US pedestrians struck by 2009-22 model year cars, SUVs and pickups for torso injury patterns.
- ▶ First to specifically examine late model SUVs and pickups in the context of impactor testing scenarios to identify that within this group of vehicles, the tallest vehicles (large SUVs and pickups) are associated with different vehicle torso injury sources.
- ▶ The tallest vehicles (large SUVs and pickups) are associated with the largest proportion of AIS2+ torso injuries resulting from pedestrian torso impacts with the front headlights, grille, and HLE, compared to medium and short vehicles with injuries from the hood and greenhouse.
- ▶ Tallest vehicles should not be ignored or exempted from pedestrian vehicle assessments, but more research is required to ensure testing conditions promote countermeasures that are real-world relevant

Ongoing research project

Principal Investigator: Jingwen Hu, PhD



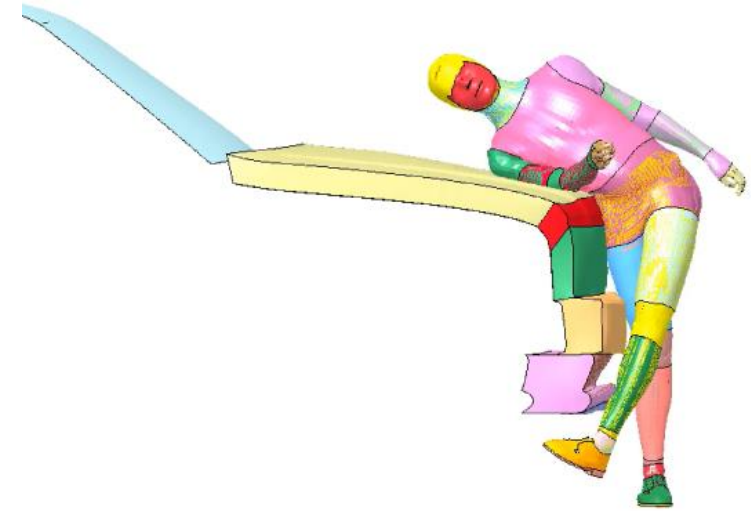
Research Objective

Use finite element (FE) vehicle and human body models to investigate effects of vehicle front-end geometry and stiffness characteristics on pedestrian injuries

- ▶ Tall boxy front-end vehicles such as midsize and large SUVs and pickups
- ▶ Torso injuries, some limited information on other body regions

Parametric study

A parametric simulation study ($n \approx 300$) will be conducted with combinations of vehicle front-end geometries, human body models and impact velocities



Inputs

- Vehicle front-end geometry based on PCA results
- Vehicle front-end material properties
- Impact speed 30 - 50 kph
- Pedestrian (M95, M50, and F05 GHBM-C-PS models)

Outputs

- Torso landmark contact locations
- Wrap around distance (WAD)
- Torso impact velocity and angle
- Ribcage deformation
- Maximal principal strain
- Injury measure to other body regions

Informing the outsized pedestrian torso injury risk associated with taller vehicles



Simulation study provides insight

- ▶ Understanding torso injuries and sources for a category of vehicles (vehicle type/HLE height)
- ▶ Understanding torso injuries and sources across vehicle categories (vehicle type/HLE height)
- ▶ What are potential types of effective tall vehicle countermeasures for pedestrian torso protection

Expected study completion Q4 2025

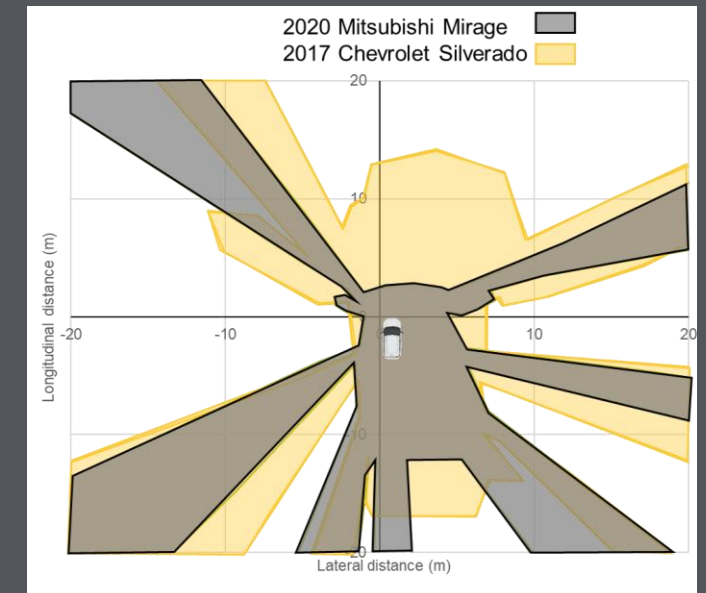
The role of vehicle blind zones in pedestrian crashes



Results to be shared later in 2025

Ongoing research

- ▶ Creation of comparative visibility maps for vehicle models
- ▶ Provides guidance to vehicle manufacturers to minimize blind zones associated with common pedestrian scenarios (left turn, crosswalks)
- ▶ Informs consumers about vehicles that provide them better direct vision



Insurance Institute for Highway Safety
Highway Loss Data Institute

iihs.org



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THANK YOU



Samuel Monfort, PhD.

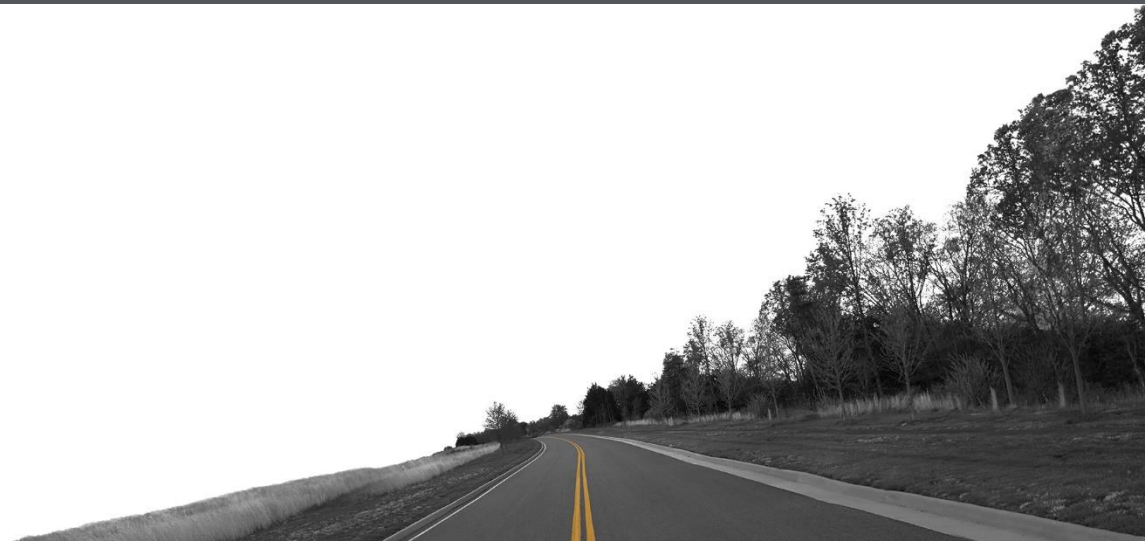
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Senior Research Engineer

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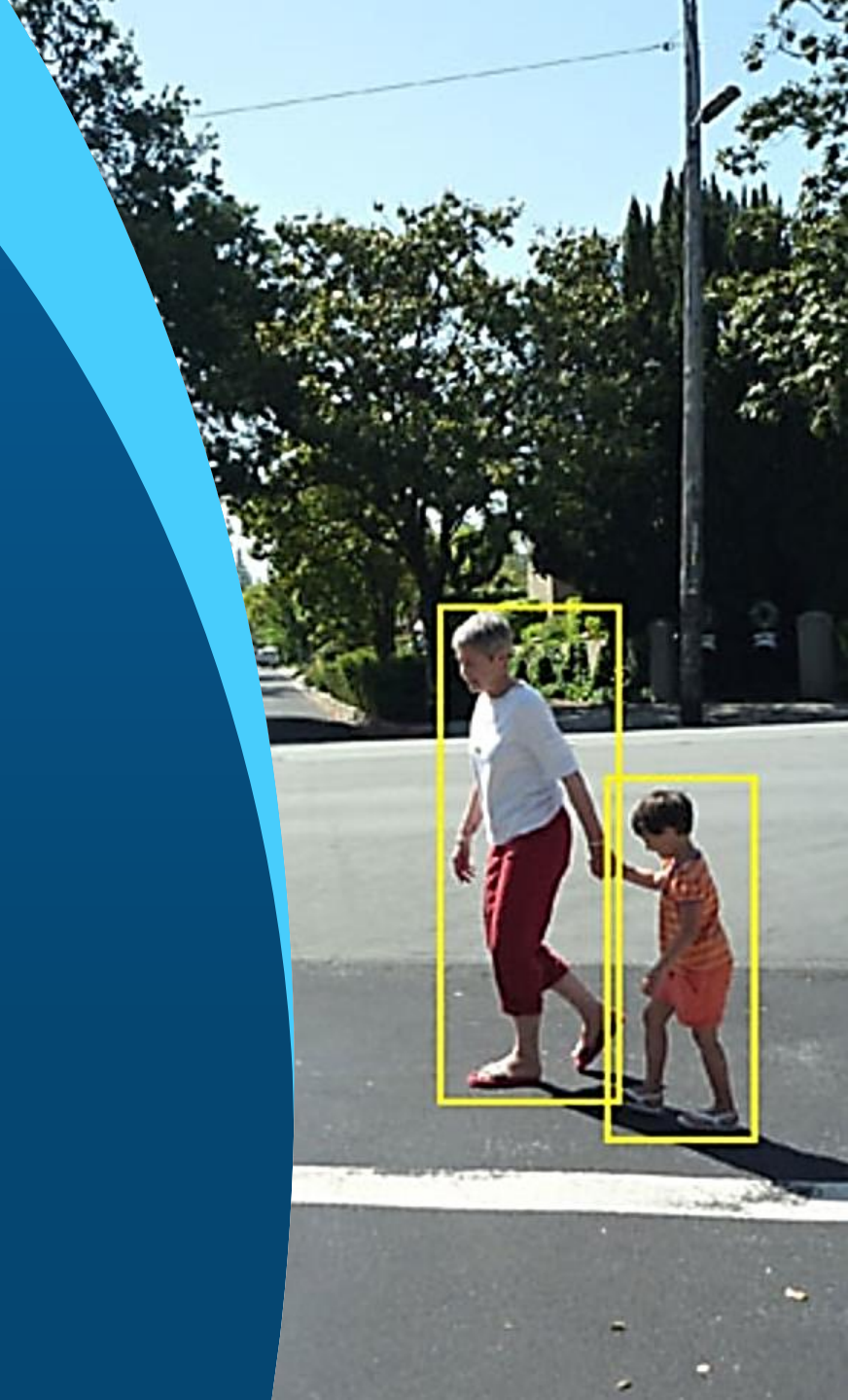




AAA's evaluation of pedestrian detection systems

Greg Brannon

Director of Automotive Engineering and Research, AAA



Educating consumers on the effectiveness of emerging vehicle technologies



Blind-spot warning
Automatic emergency braking
Dynamic parking assistance
Dynamic driving assistance (L2)



Rear cross traffic warning
Lane departure warning
Adaptive cruise control
AEB with pedestrian detection



Testing goals

How do vehicles equipped with pedestrian detection systems perform:

- when encountering an adult pedestrian crossing the roadway
- when encountering challenging vehicle/pedestrian interactions, such as
 - A child pedestrian
 - A pedestrian immediately after a right curve
 - Two pedestrians alongside the roadway
- at night



Findings: Adult crossing the road

- At 20 mph:
 - 100% visual notification
 - A collision with the pedestrian was avoided 40% of the time
- At 30 mph, only one test vehicle avoided collision with the pedestrian in 2 out of 5 runs
- A significant degree of variability was noted for the same test vehicle within the same scenario



Findings: Child darting into traffic

- At 20 mph, a collision occurred 89% of the time
- At 30 mph, none of the test vehicles avoided a collision with the pedestrian
- Consistent with stated limitations regarding children



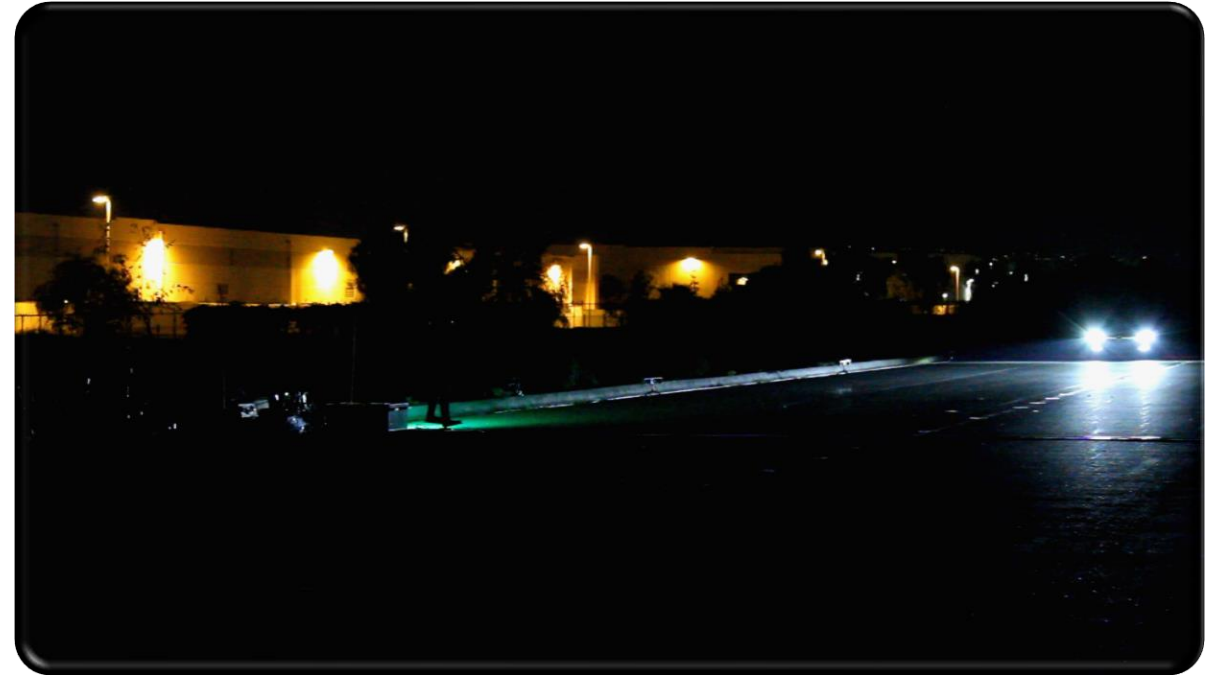
Findings: Two adults on the road

- At 20 mph, a collision occurred 80% of the time
- At 30 mph, only one test vehicle avoided collision with the pedestrian in 1 out of 5 runs
- Consistent with stated limitations regarding pedestrian detection challenges



Findings: Nighttime driving

- Pedestrian detection systems were ineffective
- Consistent with stated limitations regarding poor visibility/nighttime driving



AAA's recommendations

Drivers:

- Never rely on pedestrian detection systems to avoid a collision.
- Become familiar with ADAS features on the vehicle

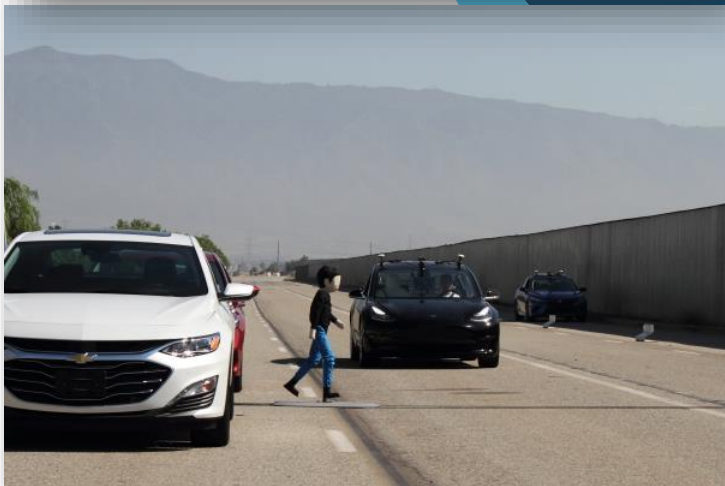
Auto manufacturers:

- Enhance effectiveness in nighttime conditions

Roadway Planners:

- Overhead lighting
- Pedestrian crosswalks





DISCUSSION

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Thank You

Improving Pedestrian Safety Through Vehicle Design and Technology...and Implications for Infrastructure Planning and Ops

Ali Brodeur

Juwon Drake

Eric Englin

Alex Epstein, PhD

Don Fisher, PhD

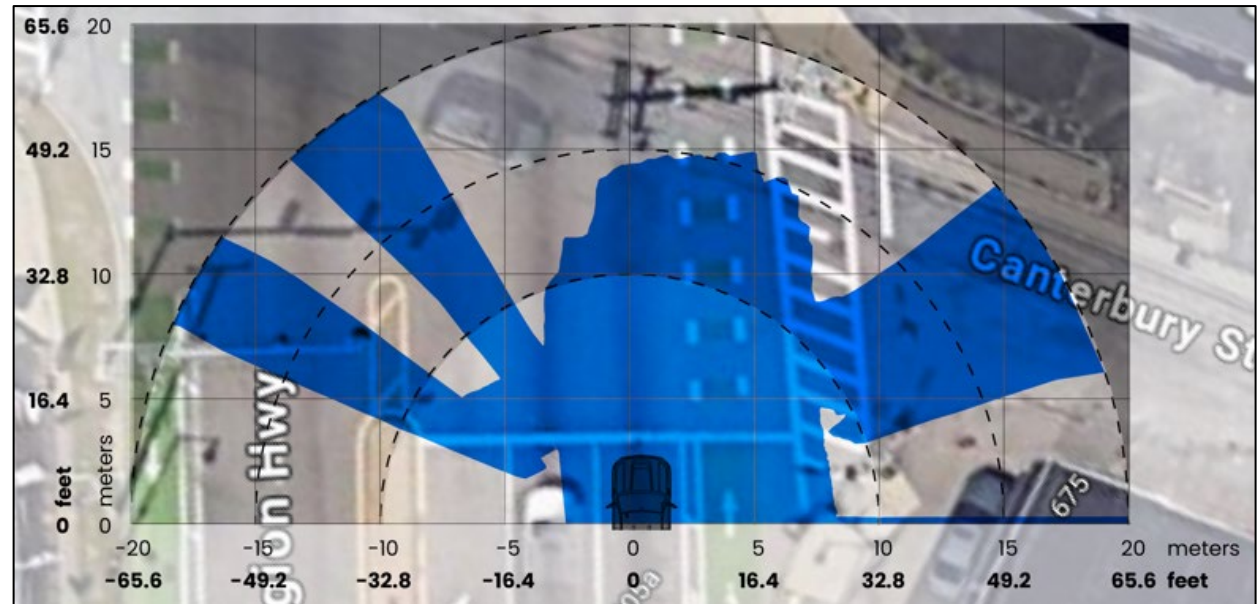
Arielle Herman

Vijaeth Hiraesave, PE

Mike Littman, PE

Grace Truslow

Sarah Yahoodik, PhD

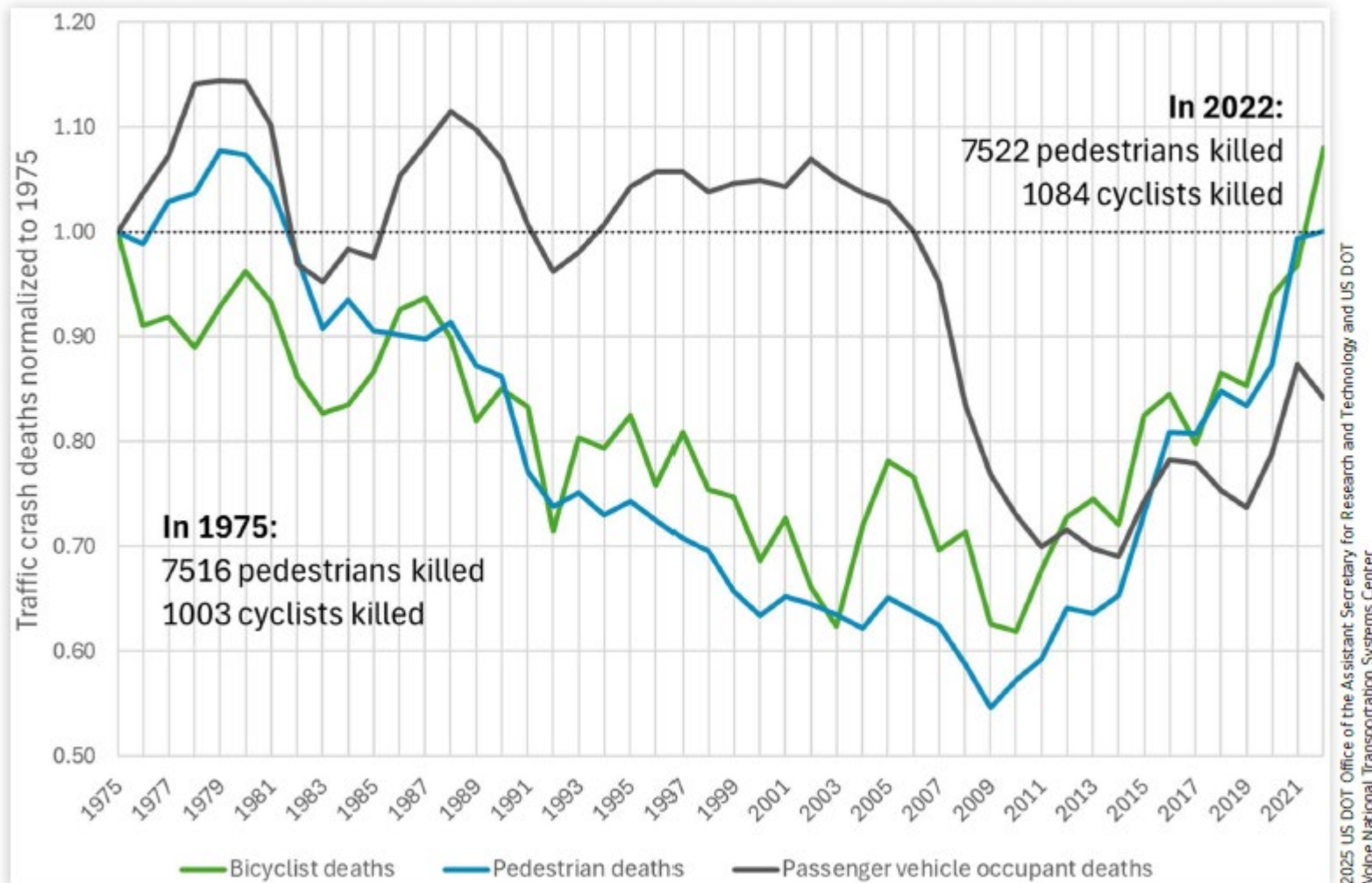


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- These recommendations represent the best technical judgement of U.S. DOT Volpe Center staff based on their independent and objective technical analysis and expertise, and are not to be misconstrued as statements of U.S. DOT policy or guidance.

Why This Matters

FIGURE 1 Pedestrian, bicyclist, and passenger vehicle occupant deaths in the United States, 1975–2022. (Data taken from Ref. [3, 4].)



ANNUAL FATALITIES

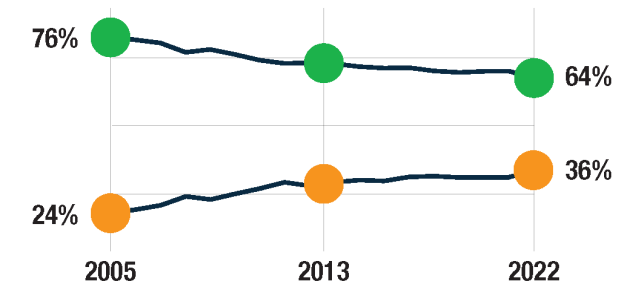
Between 2009-2022 fatalities increased by 81.7% for people walking and biking. In 2022 alone, the increase was 20.2%.

Total Increase in Fatalities 2009-2022

81.7%

INSIDE VS OUTSIDE

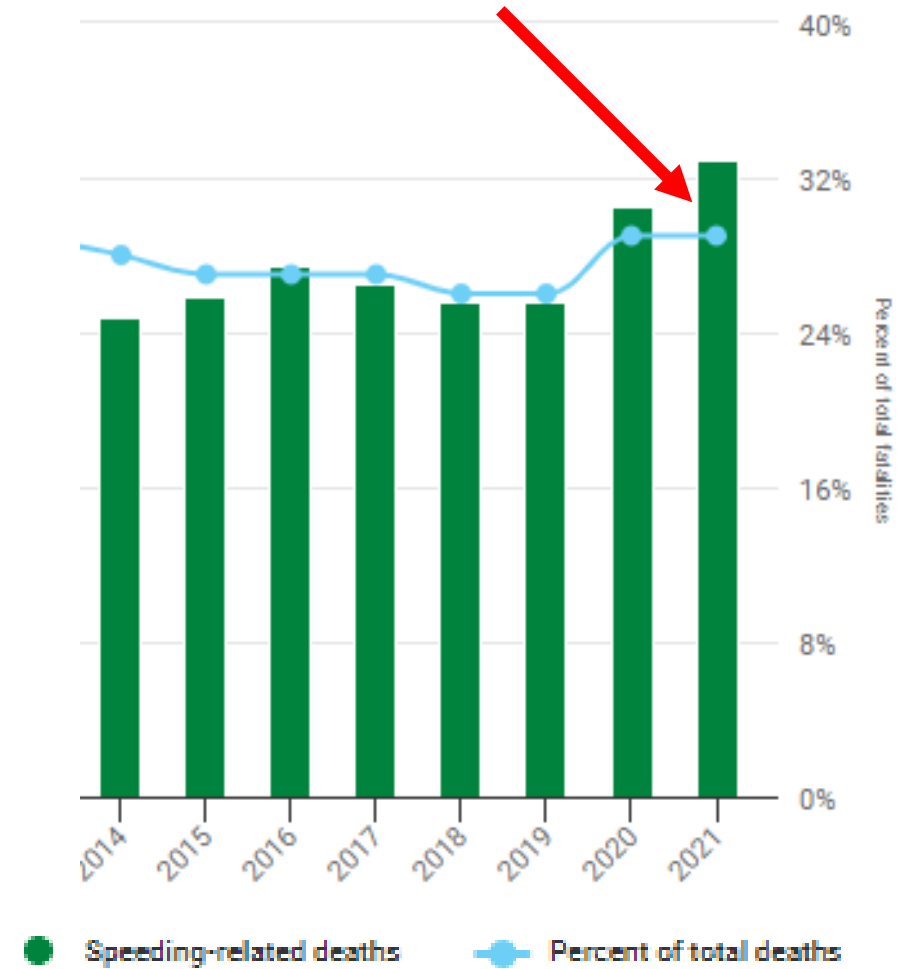
In 2022, 64% of fatalities were from users inside a vehicle and 36% outside a vehicle.



Sample of Safety Issues and Countermeasure Research

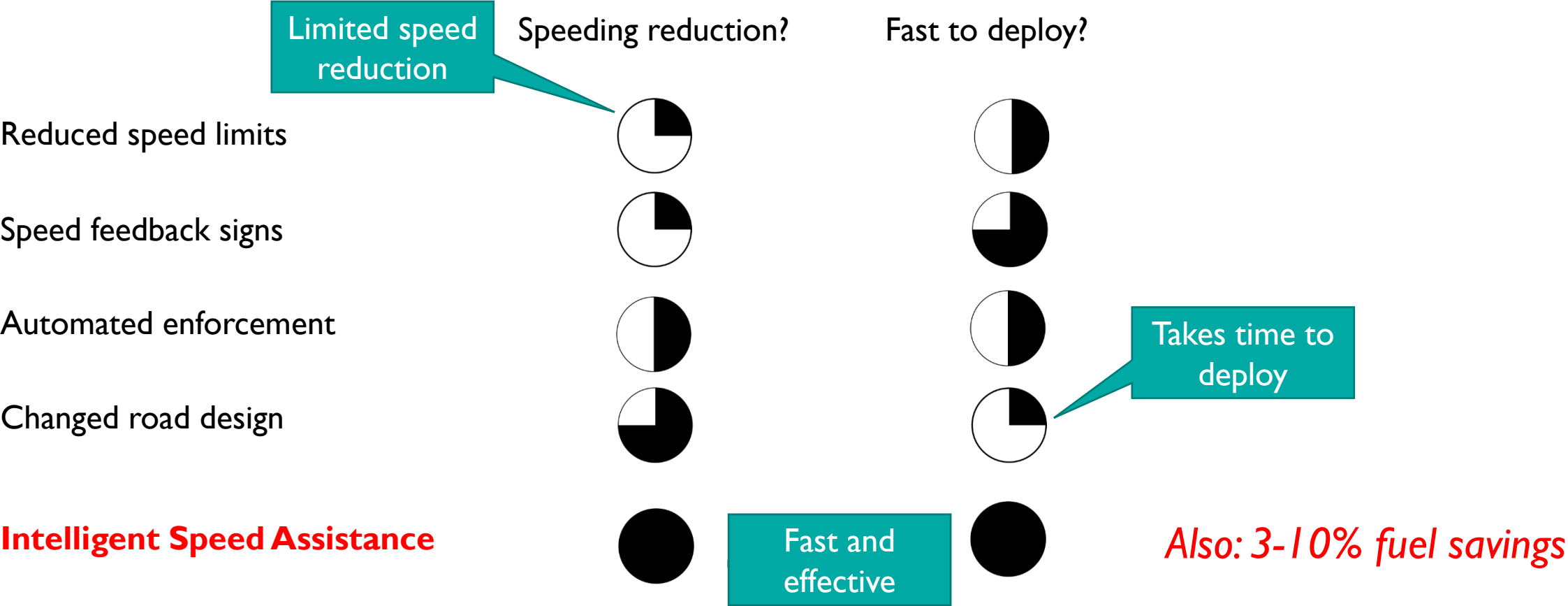
Speeding is killing

Speeding is implicated in **about 30% of traffic fatalities** and rising.



Source: National Safety Council

Current solutions to speeding



Virginia

Va. to become first state to make speeding impossible for some drivers

D.C. has a similar law that will use high-tech equipment to force cars to obey the speed limit.

March 27, 2025



Intelligent speed assistance (ISA) set to become mandatory across Europe

MAYOR OF LONDON **LONDON ASSEMBLY**

Speed-limited buses effective 'safety car' on 20mph streets

13th September 2018

NTSB Calls for Technology to Reduce Speeding in All New Cars

11/14/2023



4 WASHINGTON

42°

TRENDING



Weather alert



Mardi Gras

Discover Black Heritage



Valentine's Day...



ROAD SAFETY

DC approves requiring 'speed governor' devices on dangerous drivers' cars

NYC DCAS
Citywide Administrative Services

In January 2023, the city announced the initiative's early success with fleet vehicles staying within the set speed limits for 99% of miles driven.

Photo: NYCDCAS

The New York City fleet is getting a major expansion of the DCAS Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA) program thanks for nearly \$30 million in federal funding through the Safe Streets and Roads for All program.

ISA is available aftermarket and use is growing

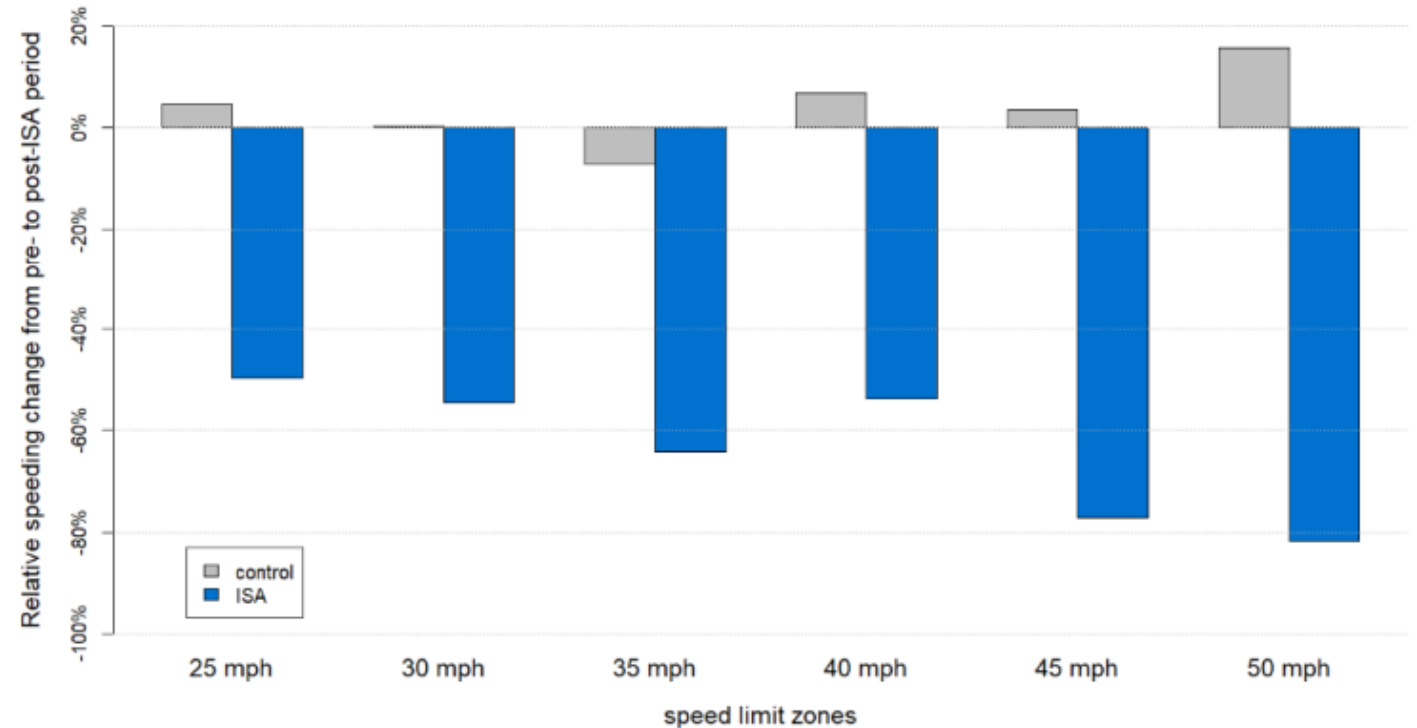


Advanced Intelligent Speed Assist (ISA)



NYC DCAS Pilot Evaluation

- Effective at reducing severe speeding.
- 2.9 million miles driven
- **64% decrease in driving time speeding >11 mph over limit.**
- Effective even with habitual speeders
 - 49% decrease in speeding



WATCH OUT FOR BLIND ZONES

The risk of injury or death to vulnerable road users (VRUs)
— pedestrians, pedalcyclists, and other non-vehicle occupants —
has rapidly increased over the past 20 years.

Most pedestrian fatalities occur
in the front of the vehicle.



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

For More Information: FHWA Pedestrian & Bike Safety - <https://highways.dot.gov/safety/pedestrian-bicyclist>

WATCH OUT FOR BLIND ZONES

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Large vehicles: blind zones

- Tall hoods, high beltlines, thick pillars
- > 700 fatalities/year





Direct Vision

Blind Zone

Indirect Vision

Volpe blind zone research



TfL-Volpe
DVS info
exchange
2017



NACTO best
practice
report
Mid 2018



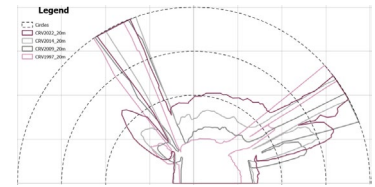
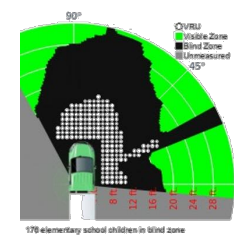
NYC Fleet
announcement on
high vision cabs
Late 2018



Convened
international
DV
stakeholder
group with
Transport
Canada
Early 2020



Driver
simulation
study;
engaging
external orgs
2021; new
blind zone
visualizations



TRB panel;
Together for Safer
Roads toolkit;
Quebec standard
2024-25; IIHS
collaboration;
OST-R
longitudinal,
correlation
studies; MassDOT
study 2024



VIEW blind zone
app development
(w/ Olin/Santos)
2017-18

VIEW demo
video with
Republic
Services
Late 2018

Santos Family
Foundation
funding for
Volpe app
development
2019

Engaging with
UK
researchers,
NHTSA VRTC,
and VI State
Patrol
Mid 2020

VIEW validation
study; Boston fleet
rating prototype
2022; MA law
mandating study;
NYC Executive
Order 39 (2024)



Solution: high vision design



Low Vision



High Vision



Mitigation: advanced camera systems



Longitudinal Analysis of Forward Blind Zone Changes in Popular Vehicle Models (1997–2023)

Alexander K. Epstein,¹ Alyssa Brodeur,¹ Juwon Drake,¹ Eric Englin,¹ Donald L. Fisher,¹ Stephen Zoepf,² Becky C. Mueller,³ and Haden Bragg³

¹U.S. Department of Transportation, Volpe Center, USA

²U.S. Department of Transportation, USA

³Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, USA

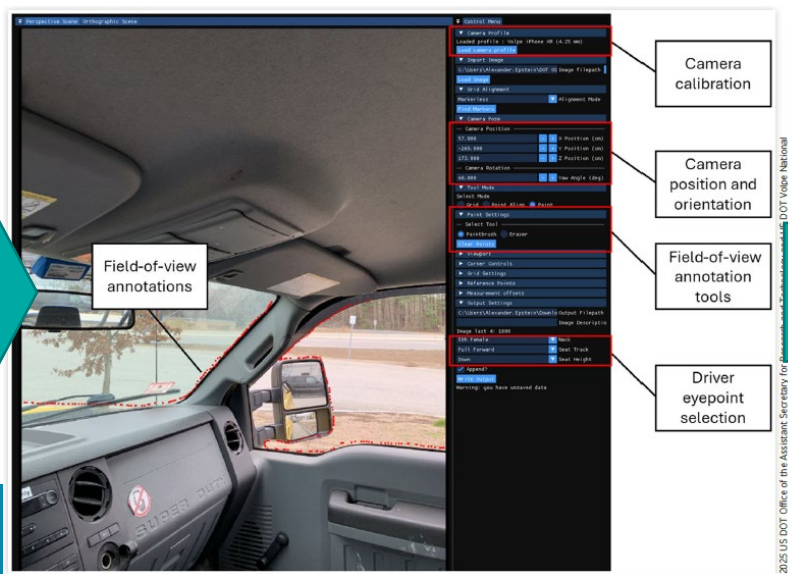
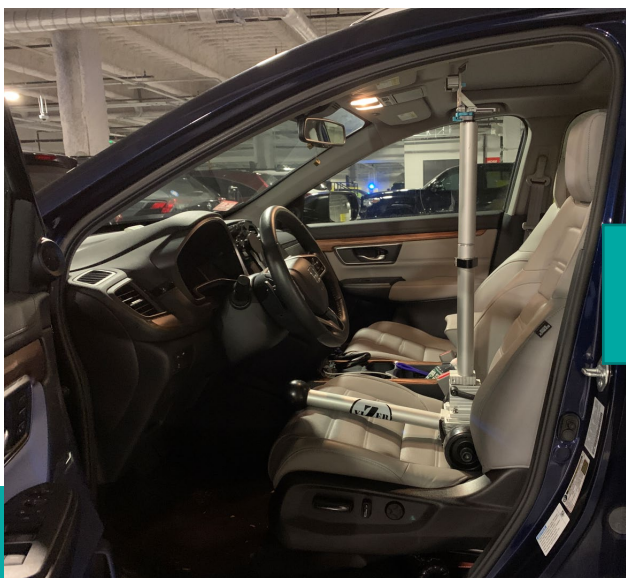
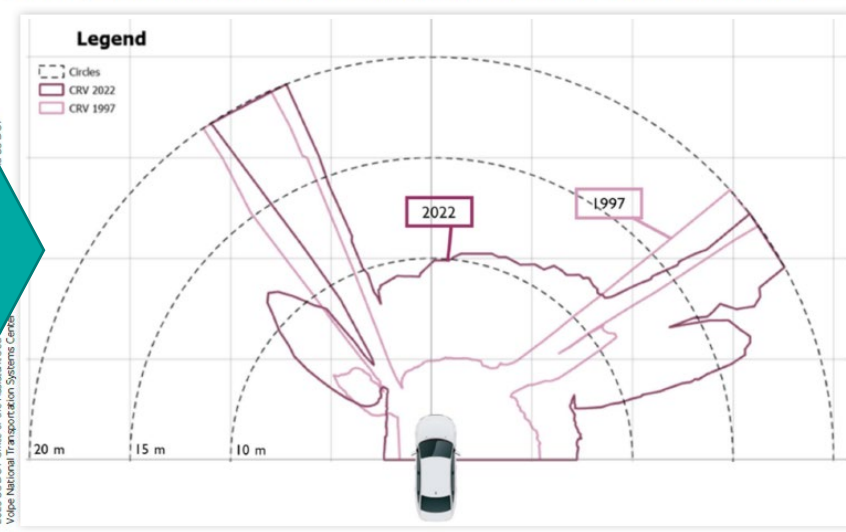
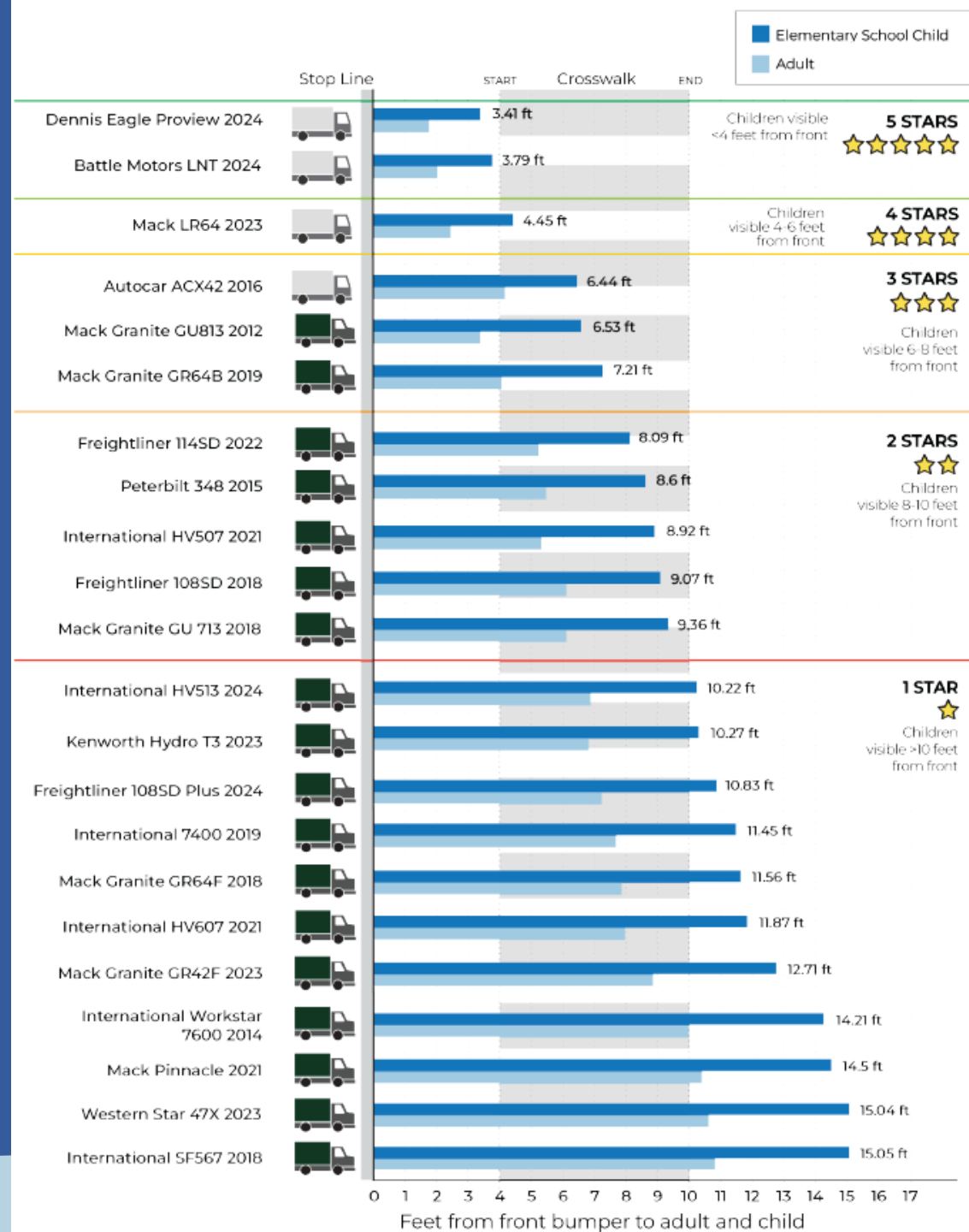


FIGURE 4 1997 and 2022 Honda CR-V overhead view showing nearest visible points at ground level for the forward 180°.

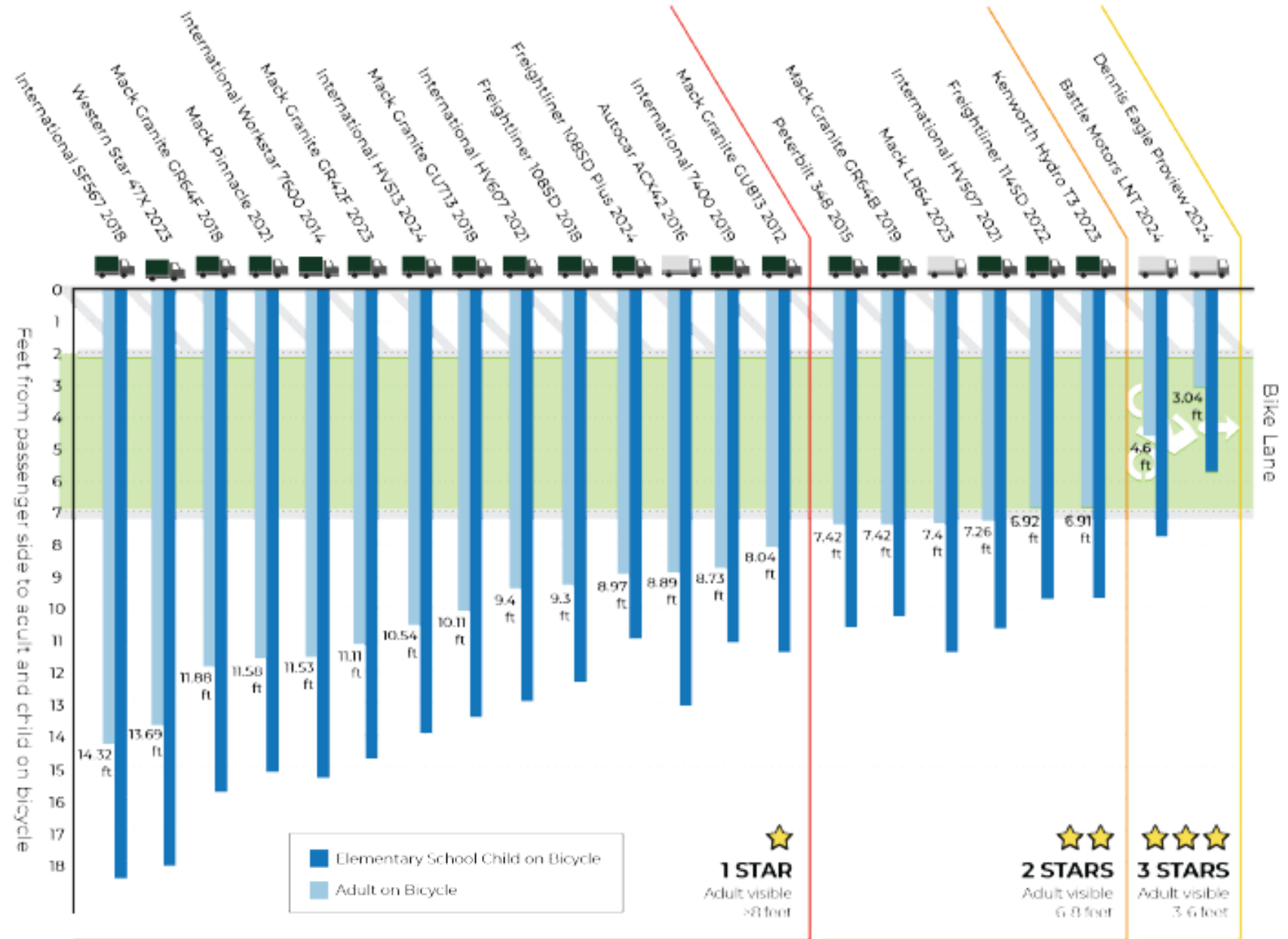




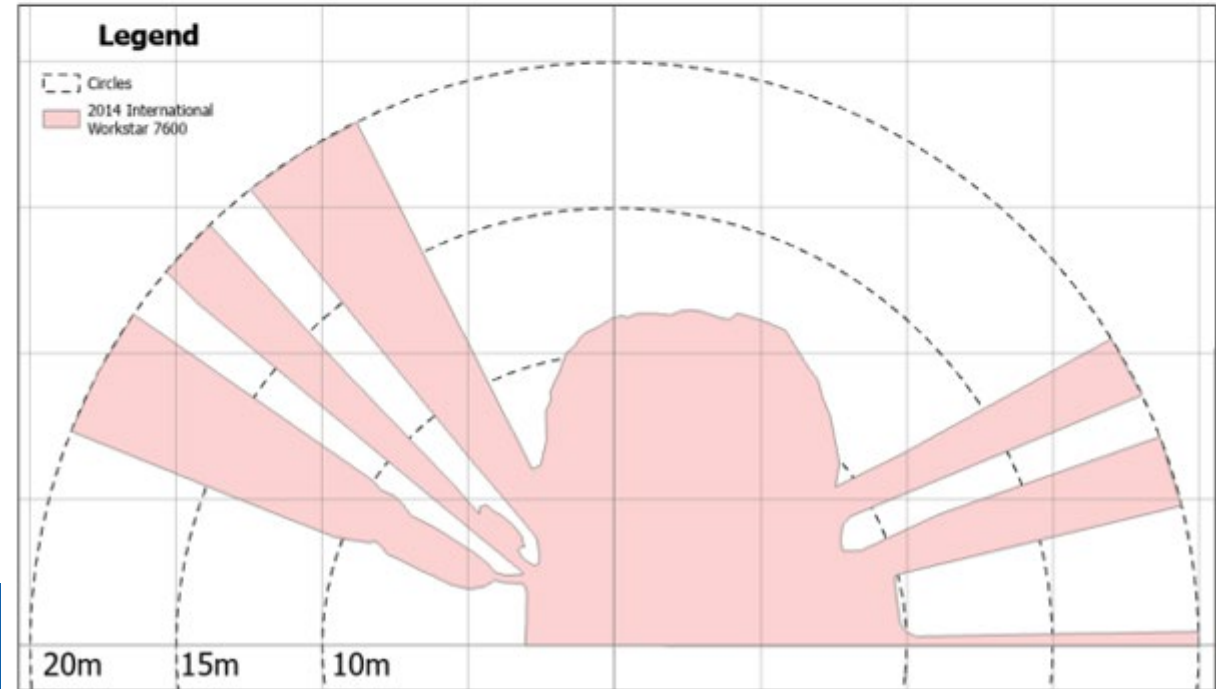
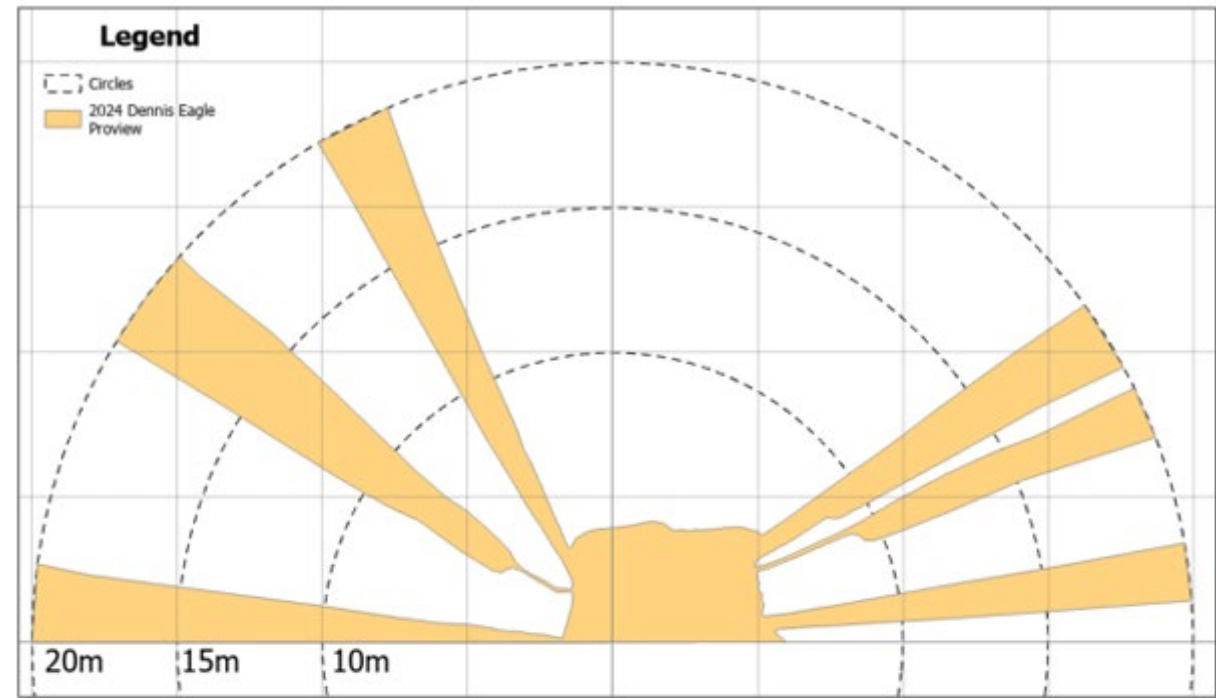
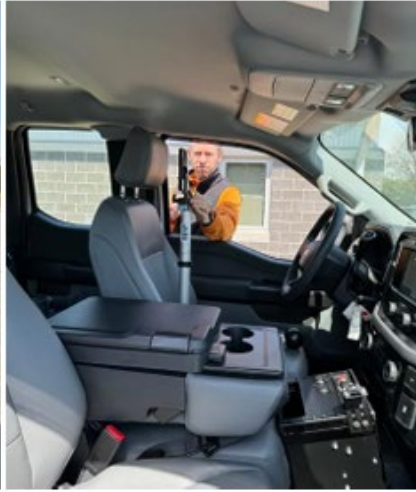
Nearest point at which an adult and child are visible to a driver in a standard crosswalk and stop bar overlaid with a five-star rating system for measured heavy-duty vehicles



Nearest point at which an adult and child are visible to a driver in a buffered bike lane overlaid with a five-star rating system for measured heavy-duty vehicles

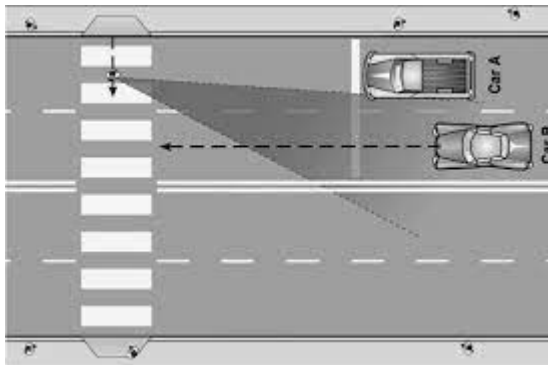
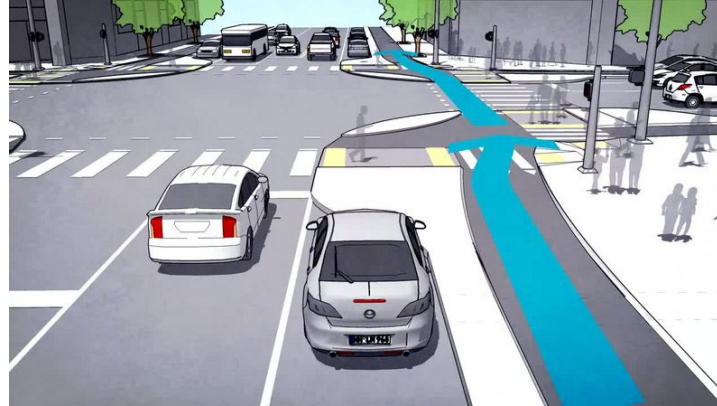


Direct Vision Study (MassDOT and OST-R)



Geometric and operations-based safe street toolkit examples

- How can we position road users in space and time to keep VRUs safely out of blind zones?
- **Geometric design**
 - Protected intersections
 - Offsets
 - Raised crosswalks, bike lanes, and tables
- **Pavement markings**
 - Advance stop lines
 - Two-stage left box
 - Daylighting
- **Traffic control devices**
 - Near-side traffic signals
 - NTOR policy
 - LPI or exclusive ped phase
- **Modal priority networks**
 - Safe Routes to School
 - Bike networks
 - Truck routes



Fatal side impact crashes

- High open sides to fall under
 - Up to ~125 fatalities/year



Solution: Lateral protection devices including aerodynamic side guards



Truck Side Guard Adoption in North America



Strategy: Rightsize and Downsize



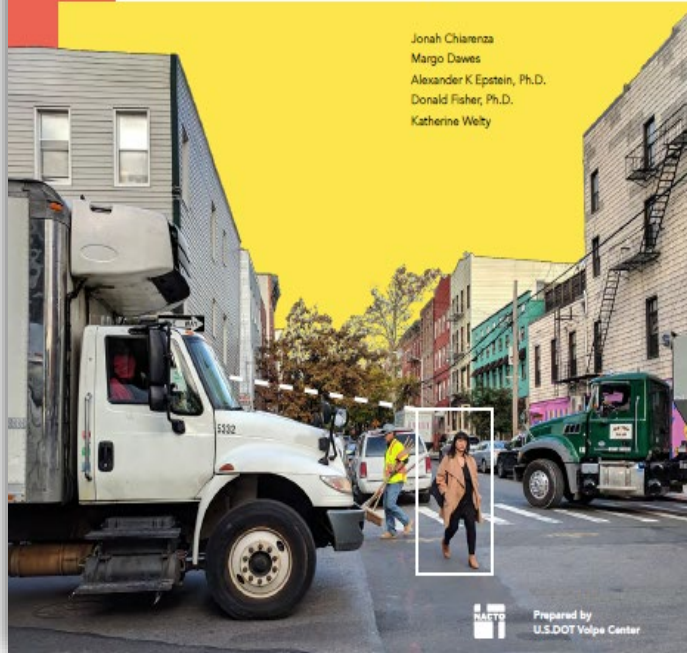
Pictured: eSwingo 200+ electric compact sweeper rented by SDOT. Photo Credit: SDOT.



Optimizing Large Vehicles for Urban Environments

Advanced Driver Assistance Systems

Jonah Chiarenza
Margo Dawes
Alexander K. Epstein, Ph.D.
Donald Fisher, Ph.D.
Katherine Welty



NACTO
Prepared by
U.S.DOT Volpe Center

Optimizing Large Vehicles for Urban Environments

Downsizing

Jonah Chiarenza
Margo Dawes
Alexander K. Epstein, Ph.D.
Donald Fisher, Ph.D.
Katherine Welty

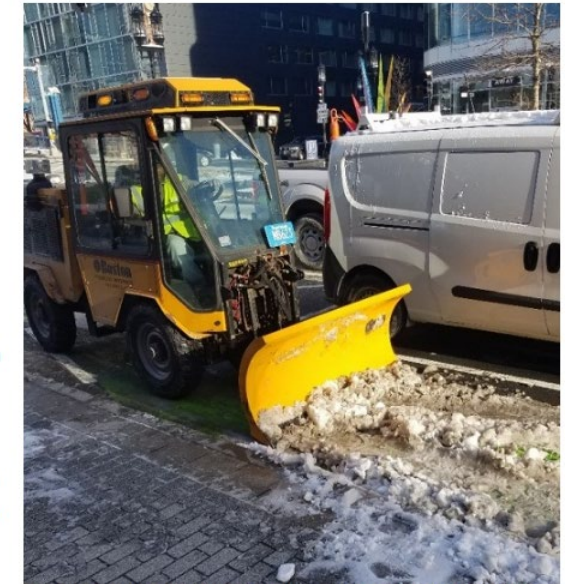


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Case Studies: Downsized Street Maintenance Vehicles

Boston

In 2016, the Boston Public Works Department (PWD) began purchasing downsized vehicles to maintain newly built protected bike lanes, in support of Vision Zero. The two agencies coordinate to ensure that PWD can maintain the infrastructure that Boston



Deployed John Deere Skid Steer. Source: Boston Dept. of Public Works

Where do you start?



Tier 1



Tier 2

“Best Practices Technology”



Tier 3

“Exploratory Technology”

Table 3. 2025 SFTP update

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
	Best Practice Technologies	Exploratory Technologies
High vision truck cabs where competitively available and operationally feasible * § ‡	Intelligent Speed Assistance (ISA) §	Alcohol touch ignition interlock §
Truck surround cameras for new truck acquisitions when high vision truck cabs are not available * ‡	AEB for medium-duty vehicles with pedestrian detection where available §	Cell phone physical or app-based lock box/ docking station ignition interlock §
Backup cameras where rear view is not otherwise included by surround cameras	Blind spot monitors	Seatbelt assurance ignition interlock systems §
Forward Collision Warning (FCW) and Pedestrian Collision Warning (PCW) for Class 1 and 2	Enhanced Seat Belt Reminder systems (ESBRs)	Universal design
Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) for light-duty vehicles (Class 1-2) with pedestrian detection where available §	Navigation systems	Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) for heavy-duty vehicles* §
Automatic headlights where available	Power mirrors and heated mirrors *	Connected vehicle, or vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V), communication technology
Enhanced truck rear underride guards *	Speed governors * §	License plate readers
Safety lights for work trucks, such as but not exclusive to side-visible turn signals and roadwork lights (amber)	Turning alarms *	Minimum sound detectability of electric MD/HD vehicles
Side underride guards * consistent with Local Law	Rear Automatic Emergency Braking (AEB) for all vehicle classes §	Telematics to enable siren use ‡ ¶
Self-adjusting volume and/or multifrequency backup alarms †	Forward Collision Warning (FCW) and Pedestrian Collision Warning (PCW) for Class 3 and above	
Additional mirrors/lenses where applicable including Fresnel lenses *	External Cameras and Recording	
Telematics to enable utilization, collision, speed, and safety reporting, among other uses ‡ ¶	Training where feasible in appropriate use of technologies	
Warning decals *	Lane departure warnings for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles	
Power windows where available *	Backup sensors	
Lane departure warnings for light-duty vehicles		

* Only apply to vehicles with gross vehicle weight rating over 10,000 lbs.

† Only apply to vehicles with limited or no direct rear vision (e.g., passenger/cargo vans and trucks) and to vehicles and trailers with gross vehicle weight rating of 10,000 lbs. or greater.

§ Only apply to non-emergency response vehicles

‡ NYC Executive Order 39, February 15, 2024: <https://www.nyc.gov/office-of-the-mayor/news/39-003/executive-order-39>

¶ NYC Executive Order 41, March 28, 2019: <https://www.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/executive-orders/2019/eo-41.pdf>

Municipal fleet safety research examples

Truck Sideguards for Vision Zero

Review and technical recommendations for Safe Fleet Transition Plan pilot deployment

Alexander K Epstein, Ph.D., Sean Peirce, Andrew Breck, Coralie Cooper, and Eran Segev



December 2014
DOT-VNTSC-DCAS-14-01

Prepared for:
Department of Citywide Administrative Services
City of New York

NYC
Citywide Administrative Services

U.S. Department of Transportation
John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

Volpe
Center

Launching the Safe Fleet Transition Plan

Technology and Process Recommendations

Margo Bowers and Alexander K Epstein, Ph.D.



May 2017
DOT-VNTSC-DCAS-17-01

Prepared for:
Department of Citywide Administrative Services
City of New York

NYC
Citywide Administrative Services

U.S. Department of Transportation
John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

Volpe
Center

Safe Fleet Transition Plan Update 2018 - 2019

Best Practice Technologies and Processes

Alexander K Epstein, Ph.D. and Rebecca Krauss



NYC DCAS
Citywide Administrative Services
November 2018
DOT-VNTSC-DCAS-18-01
Prepared for:
Department of Citywide Administrative Services
City of New York

U.S. Department of Transportation
John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

Volpe
Center

Safe Fleet Transition Plan: Private Vehicle Crashes and Vehicle Safety Technology

Preliminary Report: Expanding the NYC Safe Fleet Transition Plan to Trade Waste Industry and Private Truck Fleets

Alexander K Epstein, Ph.D., Michael Chang, Lucy Liu, and Rabi Patel



December 2021

Prepared for:
Business Integrity Commission and Department of Citywide Administrative Services
City of New York

U.S. Department of Transportation
Volpe Center

The NYC School Bus Fleet: Improving Road Safety Through Technologies and Training

Andrew Breck, Ali Brodeur, Alexander Epstein, Ph.D., Ekar Lai, Ahmad Nasser, Lily Isonim, Sarah Yahoodik, Hayden Smith, Jowon Drake



Photo credit: Volpe

November 2023
DOT-VNTSC-NYDCAS-23-01

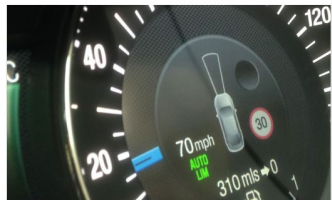
Prepared for:
Department of Citywide Administrative Services and the Department of Education
City of New York

U.S. Department of Transportation
Volpe Center

New York City Intelligent Speed Assistance Pilot Evaluation

Analysis and Findings

U.S. DOT Volpe Center: Sarah Yahoodik, PhD, Alexander K Epstein, PhD, Alyssa Brodeur, Jowon Drake
NYC DCAS: Tomomi Landman



October 2024
DOT-VNTSC-NYC-24-02

Prepared for:
Department of Citywide Administrative Services
City of New York

NYC DCAS
Citywide Administrative Services

U.S. Department of Transportation
Volpe Center

Boston Blind Zone Safety Initiative

Current Fleet Analysis, Market Scan, and Proposed Direct
Vision Rating Framework

Alyssa Brodeur, Eric Englin, Alexander K Epstein, Ph.D., Alessandra Venema



Photo credit: Volpe

August 2023
DOT-VNTSC-BOS-23-01

Prepared for:
Boston Public Health Commission and
Boston Transportation Department

BOSTON PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
B

U.S. Department of Transportation
Volpe Center

Vision Zero San Francisco Truck Side Guard Initiative

Technical Assessment and Recommendations

Alexander K Epstein, Ph.D., Andrew Breck, Coralie Cooper, and Sean Peirce



May 2016
DOT-VNTSC-SFMTA-16-01

Prepared for:
City of San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency

SFMTA
Municipal Transportation Agency

U.S. Department of Transportation
John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

Volpe
Center

Cambridge Safer Truck Initiative

Vehicle-based strategies to protect pedestrians and bicyclists

Alexander K Epstein, Ph.D., Eran Segev, and Andrew Breck



March 2016
DOT-VNTSC-CDPW-16-01

Prepared for:
City of Cambridge, Massachusetts

U.S. Department of Transportation
John A. Volpe National Transportation Systems Center

City of Cambridge

Volpe
Center

2025 NYC Safe Fleet Transition Plan Update

Alexander K Epstein, PhD, Arielle Herman, MPA, Sarah Yahoodik, PhD



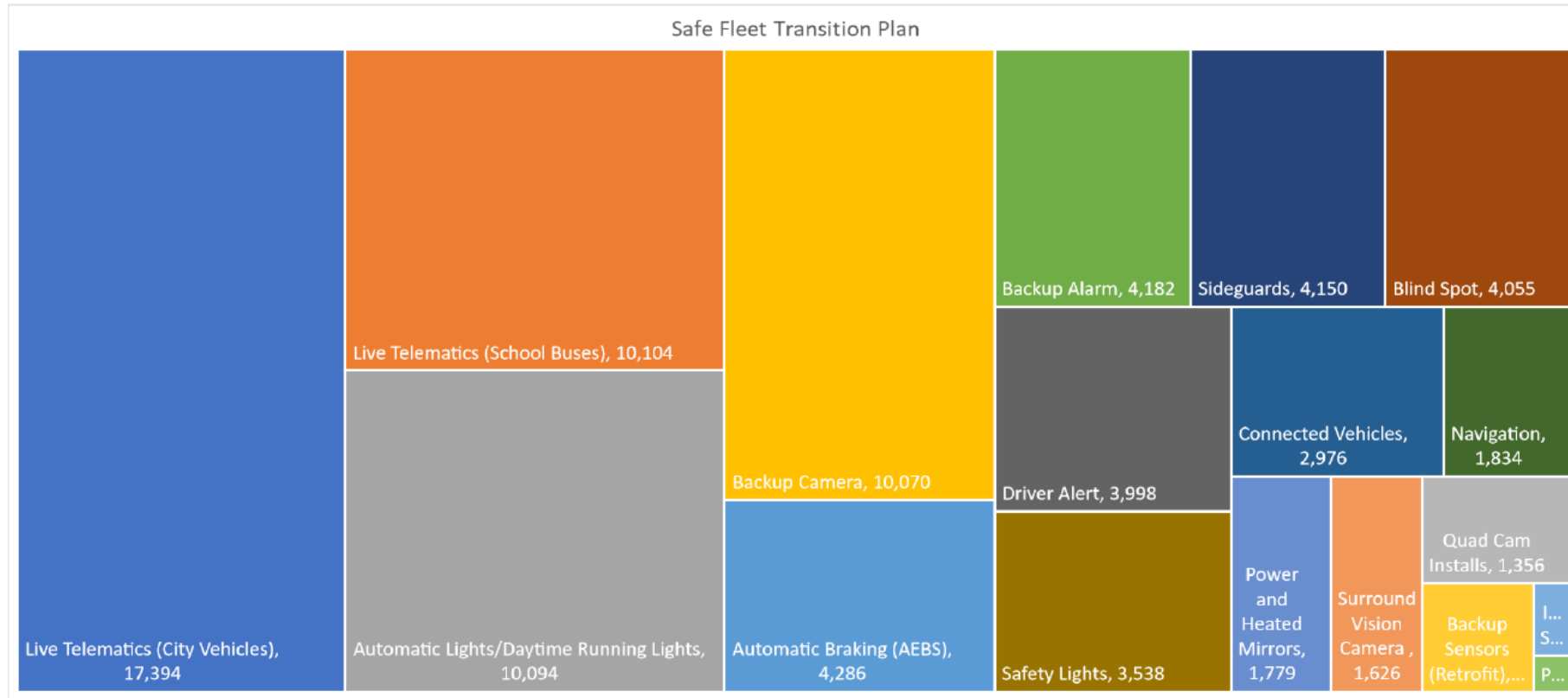
January 2025
DOT-VNTSC-NYC-25-01

Prepared for:
Department of Citywide Administrative Services
City of New York

NYC DCAS
Citywide Administrative Services

U.S. Department of Transportation
Volpe Center

Safe Fleet Investments, over 100,000 since 2017



What's next?

- Support more public and private fleets to lead by example
- Anticipate more state and local action
- Evaluate blind zone safety risk reduction from infrastructure design countermeasures to large vehicle blind zones



Thank you!

Contact information

alexander.epstein@dot.gov

Experience is Key to Changing Perceptions

'I feel much more confident driving in the higher vision cab. I don't want to go back to a standard tipper'

'You just need to sit in one of the old cabs then get in the new one to realise how important this change is'

"I'd say just give it a go, it's opened my eyes. I didn't see how it could be improved before"

'As a truck driver, it pains me to say this, but it's actually pretty good'



VIEW app: a web-based crowdsourced blind zone estimation tool

The screenshot shows the homepage of the VIEW app. At the top is a dark navigation bar with links: Home, Add Vehicle, Visualize, and FAQ. The main hero section features a background image of a person looking out a car window at a large truck. Overlaid on this is the text: **SAFER VEHICLES.** followed by five slanted parallel lines, then **SAFER STREETS.** Below this, in smaller text, is "see the hidden dangers of blind zones." Below the hero section is a heading: *Our Free, Smartphone-Based Blind Zone Measurement Tool Enables:*. This is followed by three rounded rectangular boxes. The first box, titled **VEHICLE BUYERS**, shows a truck and says "Compare and select the best-in-class direct vision makes and models". The second box, titled **POLICYMAKERS**, shows a street scene and says "Understand the risks of blind zones". The third box, titled **DRIVERS**, shows a car's interior dashboard and says "Discover how much can be seen from their vehicle and risk to Vulnerable Road Users".

Home Add Vehicle Visualize FAQ

SAFER VEHICLES. ///// SAFER STREETS.

see the hidden dangers of blind zones.

Our Free, Smartphone-Based Blind Zone Measurement Tool Enables:

VEHICLE BUYERS

Compare and select the best-in-class direct vision makes and models

POLICYMAKERS

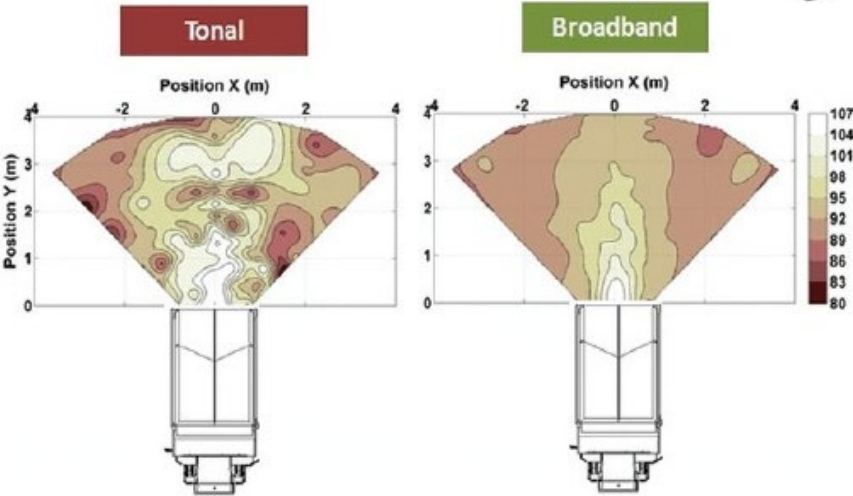
Understand the risks of blind zones

DRIVERS

Discover how much can be seen from their vehicle and risk to Vulnerable Road Users

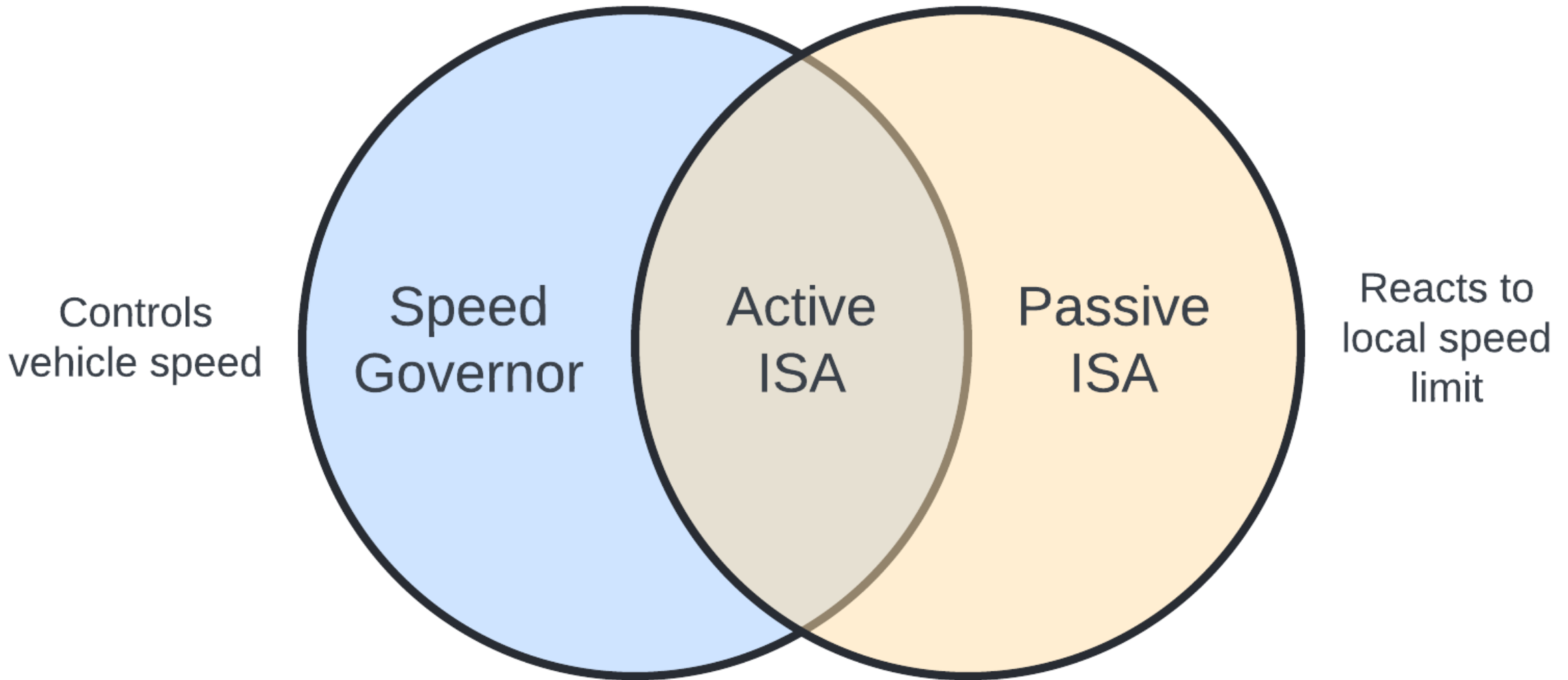
From best practices to implementation

Implementation Strategy	Direct Vision Element	Example Vehicle Models
Transformative ("best in class")	Low-entry cab forward ("high vision cab")	Freightliner EconicSD; Dennis Eagle ProView; Mack LR; Volvo FE LEC
Incremental	Cab forward	Isuzu NPR; Mitsubishi Fuso; Mack MR; GMC T7500; Kenworth K370
	Sloped hood	HINO 338; Freightliner M2 106; Thomas Saf-T-Liner C2
	Peep and teardrop windows	Various makes and models



Criterion	Tonal (traditional)	Broadband
Detection		
Localization		
Perceived Urgency		
Recognition		

What is intelligent speed assistance (ISA)?





Questions and Discussion

Thanks for joining!

- Be on the lookout for an email with:
 - An evaluation survey
 - Meeting materials (with contact information)