



# Government Wants to Make Cars Talk to Each Other

WASHINGTON — Aug 18, 2014, 1:43 PM ET

By JOAN LOWY Associated Press

Like 39

21

169 8+1 3

18 Comments



The Obama administration said Monday it is taking a first step toward requiring that future cars and light trucks be equipped with technology that enables them to warn each other of potential danger in time to avoid collisions.

A research report released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates that the technology could eventually prevent 592,000 left-turn and intersection crashes a year, saving 1,083 lives. The agency said it will begin drafting rules to require the technology in new vehicles.

The technology uses a radio signal to continually transmit a vehicle's position, heading, speed and other information. Similarly equipped cars and trucks would receive the same information, and their computers would alert drivers to an impending collision.

A car would "see" when another car or truck equipped with the same technology was about to run a red light, even if that vehicle were hidden around a corner. A car would also know when a car several vehicles ahead in a line of traffic had made a sudden stop and alert the driver even before the brake lights of the vehicle directly in front illuminate. The technology works up to about 300 yards away.

If communities choose to invest in the technology, roadways and traffic lights could start talking to cars, as well, sending warnings of traffic congestion or road hazards ahead in time for drivers to take a detour.

The technology is separate from automated safety features using sensors and radar that are already being built into some high-end vehicles today and which are seen as the basis for future self-driving cars. But government and industry officials see the two technologies as compatible. If continuous conversations between cars make driving safer, then self-driving cars would become safer as well.

Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx called the vehicle-to-vehicle technology "the next great advance in saving lives."

"This technology could move us from helping people survive crashes to helping them avoid crashes altogether — saving lives, saving money and even saving fuel thanks to the widespread benefits it offers," Foxx said.

It will take time for the technology to reach its full effectiveness since the current fleet of vehicles on the road will have to turn over or be retrofitted. Once a critical mass of vehicles is equipped with the technology, they are expected to be able to follow each other safely at a close, pre-set distance on highways. Such "platoons" or "road trains" hold the potential to enhance the flow of traffic and save fuel.

The information sent between vehicles does not identify those vehicles, but merely contains basic safety data, NHTSA said. "The system as contemplated contains several layers of security and privacy protection to ensure that vehicles can rely on messages sent from other vehicles," the agency said.

Adding the technology to new vehicles or retrofitting existing ones is expected to cost about \$100 to \$200 per vehicle.

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers and the Association of Global Automakers praised the technology, but avoided commenting directly on the government's intention to require the

## HOT RIGHT NOW

1



US Working to Authenticate Purported Execution Video

2



Jim Bob Duggar Shares His Reaction to Daughter's Surprising...

3



Ferguson Cop Had 'Serious Facial Injury,' Source Says

4



Visibly Angry Obama Denounces Beheading of James Foley

5



25 Things You Never Knew About 'Saved by the Bell'

## YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE...



Florida College Student Found Guilty



'19 Kids and Counting' Star Jessa



'19 Kids and Counting': How the



Looking Toward The Future Of U.S.

technology in new cars. Instead, both groups urged the Federal Communications Commission to preserve the 5.9 GHz radio frequency for vehicle-to-vehicle communications.

The frequency was initially expected to be dedicated to transportation technologies, but the commission has said it is exploring whether that frequency can be used for other wireless demands as well.

"We understand the pressing need for additional spectrum and are open to sharing this spectrum if it can be done safely," said Gloria Bergquist, vice president for the alliance. "We continue to urge the FCC not to compromise the use of the spectrum until it is definitively established that sharing will not interfere with the safety of the driving public."

Follow Joan Lowy on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/AP—Joan—Lowy>

Like 39

21

169 g+1 3

18 Comments

### FROM AROUND THE WEB



**Marijuana:** Guess what percentage of Americans oppose marijuana legalization? See the poll results. *(iSideWith)*



**The 8 Least Expensive States to Live in the U.S.** *(Wall Street Cheat Sheet)*

### MORE FROM ABC NEWS



**A Call for Justice in Ferguson, Missouri**



**President Obama Responds to the Execution of James Foley**

**2015 Lexus NX: The Newest Entry in a Growing Class** *(Web2Carz)*

**Why so Many of Us Are Paying Way Too Much for Our Car Insurance** *(Comparenow)*

**What Happens When Boeing Partners With the Lotus F1 Team?** *(Boeing)*

**17 Vehicles That We Won't See After 2015** *(Wall St. Cheat Sheet)*

**How Insurance Companies Train Us to Pay More than Necessary for Coverage** *(Comparenow)*

**Who Gets Your Digital Assets When You Die?**

**Video Appears to Show Beheading of Journalist James Foley, Who Went Missing in Syria**

**Mara Wilson Recalls Robin Williams 'Was Different With Grown-Ups'**

**Iceland Braced for Volcano Eruption That Could Disrupt Air Traffic**

**Zelda Williams Trolling Prompts Twitter Review**

Recommended by

ADS BY ADBLADE

### OFFERS YOU MIGHT LIKE

#### New Rule in Texas

(AUG 2014) New Rule in Texas Leaves Drivers Shocked & Furious...

[More >>](#)

#### Who's been Arrested?

Colleyville arrest records. Who do you know?

[More >>](#)

#### Smart offers from Verizon

50% off - 100% Smart. Tech Up for School w/ 50% off new Smartphones. 2yr activation req'd.

[More >>](#)

### JOIN THE DISCUSSION

18 Comments ABC News

Login

Sort by Best

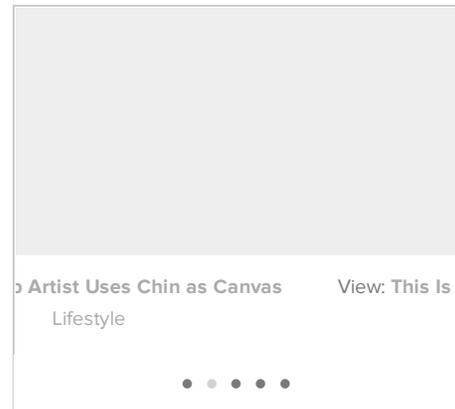
Share Favorite

Join the discussion...

**sigmabody** · 2 days ago

In case it's not blindingly obvious, this mandated feature has absolutely nothing to do with safety. Just think about it, without the spin: government mandates that all cars have technoloav which allows two wav radio communication. and continuously broadcasts

### PHOTO GALLERIES



Artist Uses Chin as Canvas View: This Is Lifestyle

### SEE IT, SHARE IT



'Apparent' That James Foley Executioner Is British: Official

Obtained by ABC News



James Foley's Parents Recall Son's 'Big Heart'

WFXT



Makeup Artist Uses Chin as Canvas

Laura Jenkinson/Caters News Agency



Does a Cool Summer Signal Another Cold and Snowy Winter?

YinYang/Getty Images



Indiana Police Investigate Possible Link in Moms' Disappearances

ABCNews.com



How Billy Crystal will Honor Robin Williams at the 2014 Emmys

Adam Bettcher/Getty Images for Starkey Hearing Foundation



Why Elise Mosca Left 'Bachelor in Paradise' With Chris Bukowski

Jesse Grant/Getty Images for Leisure Opport