



## System Safety in the News

---

### **Driver Monitoring Systems Mandated by U.S. Congress by 2026**

Driver monitoring systems (DMS) have been increasing as a part of modern vehicles' safety equipment, and as a part of the new U.S. infrastructure package, they could become standard.

DMS technology works by using cameras to ensure that the vehicle's driver is awake, alert and paying attention to the road. The system is programmed to take various actions, depending on the driver's behavior, ranging from providing warnings to slowing or stopping the vehicle.

The system is expected to be a standard safety feature as soon as 2023 in cars around the world. DMS also found its way into the \$1 trillion U.S. infrastructure package signed by President Biden in November 2021. Congress attached a mandate to the package that automakers would be required to equip cars with the technology as a way of preventing drunken or impaired driving by 2026.

The mandate was applauded by organizations such as Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD), who cited a 2020 study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety that found that 9,000 people are killed each year in the United States in drunken-driving accidents.

"We need technology to stop the nightmare on our roads," said Alex Otte, president of MADD. "Existing technologies and those in development will stop the hazardous driving behavior of people who refuse to make the right choice themselves."

The mandate in the infrastructure package states that the safety equipment must "passively monitor the performance of a driver of a motor vehicle to accurately identify whether that driver may be impaired" and "prevent or limit motor vehicle operation if an impairment is detected."

The mandate gave the National Highway Traffic

**Continued on page 43**

Safety Administration (NHTSA) three years to issue a final rule for the safety devices in order to give automakers time to comply with the measure.

“The auto industry has long been committed to supporting public and private efforts to address this tragic threat to road safety, which contributes to more than 10,000 lives lost each year,” said John Bozzella, the president and chief executive of the Alliance for Automotive Innovation. “A number of provisions in this legislation take on this important challenge, from support for enforcement to the advancement of potentially life-saving technologies.”

The technology also address the problem of distracted driving — such as driving while texting — which, according to the NHTSA, caused more than 3,000 deaths in the United States in 2019.

The technology is already in use in currently available automobiles. General Motors, for instance, recently announced its next-generation system, UltraCruise, which uses DMS to ensure motorists can drive when needed. According to GM, this Level 2 DMS system allows hands-free driving in 95% of all driving situations. The current system, Super Cruise, is already being expanded across more vehicle models.

— Sources: TechCrunch and The New York Times

## Cincinnati Tests New Ways to Light Crosswalks and Increase Pedestrian Safety

The city of Cincinnati is testing a new way to protect pedestrians as they cross busy streets.

“A regular street light shines from above ... and lights up the sidewalk and the street,” said Cincinnati Director of Transportation and Engineering John Brazina. “These new LightPath systems that we’re piloting actually shoot a beam of light across the street.”

The LightPath system puts the light at the driver’s eye level, illuminating the crosswalk and increasing pedestrian visibility.

The first system went online at a crosswalk near a public school, with the second being tested in an area with a performing arts center, library and recreation center. Both these spots were selected because they are used heavily in the early morning and late evenings.

“The two areas are a little bit different, but what we will look at is how many people use it and feedback from the community as well,” Brazina said.

The city is also using improved signage and markings, as well as the LightPath system to draw drivers’ eyes to the crosswalks.

The cost is around \$20,000 per system, and is coming out of a capital fund for pedestrian safety.

— Source: WKRC



## Land a job or Find Your Next Team Member!

Whether you are an employer or job seeker, the ISSS Jobs board can help in your search. There is no cost for job seekers to use this service, and you can subscribe to get emails with new job postings! ISSS member employers pay as little as \$99 per job posting, and the plans start at \$199 for non-members. While most postings on our site are for system safety engineer positions, other career titles related to system safety are also welcome. Get started today!

 <http://tiss.webscribble.com> 