

Comment from john millhouse

I am writing to voice my opinion AGAINST automotive side-view mirrors being eliminated in favor of cameras. My position is 3-fold:

1. Regulating Responsibility - one cannot "regulate", or force personal responsibility. Every single trip to my grocery store provides one or more examples of this: people will get in their car to leave, start the car, put it in reverse, and begin backing - all BEFORE actually looking in ANY mirror. Whether due to distraction, inattention, or reliance on "rear cross-traffic" devices - this is an obviously dangerous habit. Further reliance on electronic systems - historically PROVEN to fail - only exacerbates this problem.

2. Further enhancing the danger of this proposal is that it will obsolete those who DO take personal responsibility for their personal driving space. Just because the current generation of [drivers AND] driver "training" courses and instructors do not provide directions in the PROPER use of rear- and side-view mirrors, does not mean that NO one does so. Many of us were properly taught and use these devices in the correct manor everyday - indeed RELY on them every time we are behind the wheel. To eliminate them in favor of a camera whose ability to change perspective and view is limited proposes a dangerous "solution". I am certain every reader has, at one time or another, accidentally found themselves looking at a phone or computer screen display and moving their head or viewing angle in order to "get a better view" - only to recall it doesn't work that way. The view you have is the view you get. With mirrors you can continuously and dynamically update your field and angle of view.

3. Lastly, there are other methods by which to achieve the required result - WITHOUT having to resort to MORE electronic gimmickry than we already have... Seriously - Lane Deviation Warning??? If you can't see your lane lines and maintain your vehicle within them - you should NOT be behind the wheel. But I digress... We already have "blind-spot monitoring" systems of some sort on most vehicles, for those too lazy or irresponsible or too unskilled to look for themselves. A simple expansion of this system - a la Ford Police Interceptor vehicles - will help to eliminate any potential issues with back-over and/or rear-facing collisions. There is no need to invent/perfect/add yet ANOTHER gadget to our vehicles which are ALREADY too complex, too costly, and too difficult to repair. I, for one, will NEVER buy a vehicle with such a device, but will go to the local auto parts store to buy a "real" mirror to bolt on the side of my new car - just like I had to do in the 1970s - so that I may safely back up... Thank you for reading.