

Comment from Emily Gilliam

This is great progress in making rental cars accessible to people with disabilities. I am a person with disabilities, specifically being a little person with hearing loss. I always get nervous when I need to get a rental car due to my height. I am technically too close to the steering wheel to reach the pedals, so I know I am at risk with the airbags. I think these type of needs would have to be a case by case situation. Possibly the customer acknowledging and accepting the risk of the airbags. Is there something that can be put in place to alleviate the concern with the airbags? For instance, my brother had owned a 2003 Chrysler SUV, and I discovered it came with adjustable powered pedals. I was able to bring the pedals up to me instead of moving my seat forward and being too close to the steering wheel. That would solve my problem if cars came with this option and eliminate the concern with the airbag.

For the rearview cameras, is there an option for it to be move to the transporter (I know most cars come with built-in cameras)? It may be that the driver might have to do without the rearview camera I am sure that they are doing that currently with the car they owned.

These proposed rules will help tremendously. However, there needs to be a holistic approach to solving these challenges. I think engineers need to be creative in providing adaptive options for vehicles. These adaptive tools should be available at the rental places along with these proposed rules in place.