

I currently own a 2015 Honda Accord hybrid, which not only has a camera when reversing, but also has one on the right wing mirror that operates when a right turn is indicated. I find that being able to see the picture from that camera in my center console rather than look across at the right mirror is clearer and seems to reduce the amount of time I am not looking forward. It is particularly useful when changing lanes to the right to make sure it is clear and for seeing cyclist when making right turns. I also recently experienced a short ride in a Kia EV6 and saw how the cameras mounted on both of the mirrors provide a view on the instrument panel when the indicators are activated. My understanding is that in South Korea these vehicles already operate with just cameras. Hopefully such camera only systems might encourage drivers to indicate before they maneuver which unfortunately many of them do not currently do.

I understand that increased technical complexity of a camera system and a display has the potential for more failures than a basic mirror system. There is also the issue that camera lenses (covers) are much smaller than a mirror and can be impacted by dirt faster, particularly when driving on winter salted roads. I do, however believe that a move to camera only system especially coupled with blind spot warning has the potential to be a positive one when it comes to road safety. Looking forward to greater use of electric vehicles with the requirement for lower drag coefficient there will be pressure to make side mirrors smaller or eliminate all together. In addition cars like the Tesla model Y with its sloping rear have limited rear vision from the internal rearview mirror so camera systems appear to be the way forward. My only regret is that being over 65 I am not eligible for participation in the trial to be held.