

## Comment from Paul Mendes

Posted by the **National Highway Traffic Safety Administration** on Mar 18, 2022

When first learning to drive at 16 years of age with my Dad providing me guidance, one thing he mentioned was to never trust your mirrors...it's always better to confirm by looking over your shoulder to make sure the next lane is clear to move to. His process was to first look at the sideview mirror, and then continue your glance to over your shoulder, in one smooth head movement.

Practicing this in the many (more than 32) years of driving has saved me more than a few times where cars were in my blind spot, and had I relied solely on my side mirrors, I would have surely hit those cars.

That being said, I currently drive a Model 3 Tesla which was recently enhanced with an OTA (Over The Air) update to now include a live image of your side view on the computer screen whenever your turn signal is activated. The location of the side camera is on each front fender of my Tesla.

When first using this new feature, it took some getting used to. However, after a few days, I have found it exceptionally beneficial. So much so that now, because of the enhanced and better view of the side, I have all but abandoned the use of my side mirrors. But yes...Dad is still guiding me with his ways, and I still do a glance over my shoulder when switching lanes.

That being said, I completely support the idea to replace the side view mirrors on US vehicles with cameras. I believe they offer a much better view of the side, eliminating any blind spots, while also eliminating many negatives with side mirrors (glare from cars behind you, fogging/misting of the glass, cost associated if the mirrors get damaged, etc).

Thank you,  
Paul J. Mendes