The Life-Saving Potential of Pedestrian Detection Systems

The average car is 4,000 pounds of metal and plastic. The average American is about 180 pounds of flesh and bone.

When a car hits a pedestrian, the pedestrian's injuries can be devastating—and deadly.

A METHODOLOGY TO ESTIMATE THE SAFETY BENEFITS of PCAM

The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Volpe Center on behalf of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, developed and applied a methodology to estimate the safety benefits of pedestrian crash avoidance and mitigation technologies—or PCAM systems.

Because the best kind of crash is the one that doesn’t happen.

WHAT IS PCAM?

PCAM systems are made up of vehicle sensors that detect pedestrians, warn drivers, and can apply automatic emergency brakes.

The PCAM Safety Impact

Volpe Center data experts recently analyzed how PCAM systems can save lives and prevent serious injuries. They examined two pre-crash scenarios:

A car is going straight while a pedestrian is crossing the road.

A car is going straight while a pedestrian is walking in or adjacent to the road, stationary, or moving with or against traffic.

OVER A RECENT TWO-YEAR PERIOD, THESE SCENARIOS ANNUALLY AVERAGE:

33,000 crashes
3,000 fatal crashes
$33.4 billion in comprehensive costs

OVER THIS PERIOD, PCAM systems could have reduced:

5,000 of these crashes
810 fatal crashes
$8.2 billion in comprehensive costs

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LIFE-SAVING POTENTIAL OF PCAM SYSTEMS.