

Appendix B: Stories from CR members

I simply did not see her. I was turning left getting ready to pull into a parking space, busy intersection, backlit sun. Totally my fault and I was paying attention, not using the phone or adjusting the radio or anything. I just did not see the approaching bicyclist and turned left immediately in front of her. Luckily I was only going 5 mph and she was not badly hurt, only a few bumps and bruises. I bought her a new bike and that was the end of it. Automatic pedestrian avoidance technology absolutely would have prevented this. I am 100% in support. This accident could have easily ended in tragedy.

– Jeffrey, CA

It was night time and I was driving on a poorly lit street. I came to a full stop at the stop sign and began to accelerate slowly when out of the corner of my eye, I saw a person dressed in all black crossing in front of my car. I almost hit him and I believe strongly that pedestrian detection would save lives/injuries in this type of situation.

– Patricia, CA

I have had a great many close calls when riding my bike and a car passes to [sic] closely ... Having something that would automatically prevent this by braking the vehicle would be a very large benefit for almost every cyclist that rides on roads.

– Kenneth, GA

I'm a doctor. After call early one morning, a car rushing to turn, nearly clipped my knees out and the driver didn't even look at me. I am lucky I looked and jumped back fast enough or I'd be back in the ER from when [sic] I came, and no longer able to help others who flow in daily from pedestrian "peds-struck" accidents. I'm lucky for now, but cars should be able to see what their drivers miss. There are too many misses, never mind near misses.

– David, TN

Last week I was walking my dog on the left side of the road in our neighborhood which does not have sidewalks. No other people or cars were on the road except 1 car coming towards me. It was 5:30 pm and broad daylight. Let's just call it distracted driving, but the car was not moving over even though there was plenty of room. I had to jump out of the way, my dog and I tumbling into a ravine. I'm thankful I only broke my leg and the dog was not hurt. However, I am furious as my son is getting married next month. Pedestrian detection technology could have avoided this situation.

– Bernice, OR

On February 18, 2023 I was riding my bike home from Golden Gate Park ... [a ride-hailing company] driver turned into me while letting off a passenger. He knocked me off my bike. I

developed an infection in my spine and also in my heart. I had mitral valve replacement surgery on May 12, 2023. I am now recovering at home but it is a long and painful journey. I have noticed that [ride-hailing company] drivers (and perhaps other drivers as well) are frequently checking their phones and not paying proper attention to their surroundings. I think it would be very helpful to have cars that can alert drivers to bikers and pedestrians.

– Judith, CA

A number of years ago my son was riding his bike in the evening along the side of a road near the University of Tennessee. A passing truck apparently did not see him and he was struck by the right side mirror assembly. He is alive today because some passers-by stopped to help. The injuries are still painful, more than two decades later. Thanks for considering this available technology.

– Dan, TX

I was bicycling through a stretch of road where traffic running east to west was separated into two different roads by columns for the highway above. Cars wanting to turn onto one of the roads from the south had a stop sign and had to monitor traffic on these two separate roads to decide when to go. I was bicycling east and a clearly confused driver at the stop sign wasn't sure where to look. She didn't see me and started driving just as I was passing. Luckily, the impact was just a bump but we were all terrified of how much worse the outcome could have been. I believe detection technology could have prevented this thankfully minor collision.

– Zenzi, TX

In June 2021, a sedan crashed into my 1 year old and me while we were walking, obeying traffic laws [near our building at] Grand Army Plaza in Brooklyn, New York. There is no stoplight at this intersection, rather just a stop sign that drivers often disregard or do not see because it is often blocked by a parked SUV or delivery truck. I am lucky we were struck by a sedan at low speed rather than a SUV at high speed. I launched a campaign to make our street safer and local DOT and community groups have been very helpful in getting our street redesigned to force cars to slow down. If this technology was built into cars, I would be less scared to cross the street.

– Maddy, NY

12 years ago while cycling to work my husband was killed by a speeding car in a crosswalk, the driver was trying to beat the red light on a busy street in Manhattan. The devastation of our loss could have been prevented if the driver had this technology. Stop prioritizing car drivers and vehicle costs over the lives of pedestrians and cyclists. Cars can be made safer for the driver AND the non-driver.

– Cat, NY

I was crossing a street on a crosswalk with the right of way when I was struck by a pick up truck which was turning at the intersection while not yielding. I was flipped over the hood and miraculously landed on my feet at the side of the vehicle that struck me which then stopped. As it turned out, the driver was distracted due to using a cell phone. An automatic detection system would have alerted the driver to my presence which would have most likely resulted in avoiding striking me. Fortunately my only injuries were bruises accompanied by a jolt of adrenaline. The driver stated that she didn't see me.

– Mike, AL

I work as a physician seeing people who have been injured in car accidents and getting them access to therapy. I also give them help on what they can do at home for their pain, such as isometric exercises. In the last 4 years, I have seen dozens of people who were hit by cars as pedestrians. I oversee their slow recovery from concussions, neck, back, knee injuries and all kinds of other problems. I strongly support the inclusion of pedestrian detection technology on all new cars.

– Janet, MD

This story happens about every other month to every 3 months. My SUV had blind spots in the front corners and if the pedestrian enters just the right area at just the right time, I do not see them. I've nearly hit someone multiple times. People are understandably angry ... I love everything else about my vehicle. It's really too bad. I would love a pedestrian detection system.

– Sherri, PA

John was an avid biker. He was also a beloved physician who served in an underserved community. Ironically, a few friends and I had dinner with John only days before he was killed by a "distracted" motorist while out riding his bike ... When John was suddenly killed many of us lost a great friend, his patients lost a superb and caring physician, and his wife lost the love of her life. There is no way to measure the depth of this tragedy. Knowing we have a technology to prevent these types of tragic accident but may not use them does a grave disservice to those who have lost a friend or loved one in an accident that could have been prevented.

– Julie, GA

The USA is a beautiful country. We have canyons, forests, geysers, volcanoes, mountains, plains, everglades, and every other landscape you can imagine - even rainforests! And 85% of us live in cities and visit those beautiful places, rather than living among them. Within our cities, though, there is some wildness - some danger that isn't necessary. In the town in which I live, jay-walking is illegal, but there are also no crosswalks on some roads, at all ... Even where there are crosswalks, I have several times found even police cars not stopping at crosswalks. Pedestrians should feel as confident and safe on a cross-walk as they do on the sidewalk, and the

detection systems being proposed by Consumer Reports would enable that as all cars are eventually replaced.

– Gavin, NH

I was struck as a pedestrian by a station wagon back in November 2010 when the station wagon did not see me walking in the driveway along the side of a [drugstore] building. It was starting to get dark and I was wearing all dark clothing ... I screamed and put my hands out as if to try to stop the wagon but instead I was hit so hard I was knocked off my feet and knocked unconscious. I suffered with back pain and two fractured wrists. It has been almost 13 years from the day of that accident and now I am suffering with extreme stiffness of my neck and back ... I am having balancing issues when I walk and I am suffering from left foot and ankle pain. There are times when I can't walk ... Had the driver of the car took [sic] the time to look around before turning into the lot as well as slow down, the accident may have been avoided. Installing Pedestrian Detection in front of vehicles will really reduce the number of accidents and fatalities. I wish they were installed in vehicles back then because I wouldn't be suffering right now. My quality of life has changed from the day of that accident and I am still suffering from it. I hope that this letter can testify [on] my behalf the importance of installing in all vehicles, Pedestrian Detection.

– Maria, PA

My son (24 y.o.) was hit by a car six months ago while crossing a street, in the crosswalk. His left shoulder was broken and his right lower leg was shattered. His leg had to be rebuilt with metal bars and pins and screws and plates and a bone graft ... He has had a total of four major surgeries on his leg in these six months. He also developed a blood clot, pneumonia, and an infection in his leg, all related to the accident and the surgeries. The accident was six months ago and he has still not been able to return to work or even return to his independent life. Although the road was straight, the driver claims he did not see my son. This may very well be true, as it was very dark and my son was wearing all black. It seems to me that pedestrian detection technology could indeed have prevented this terrible accident.

– Frances, NY

Luckily I have not been hit, but [the] number of close calls I have had makes it just a matter of time. I have come to expect that I will die on the streets if I am not constantly scanning for the careless, distracted, inexperienced, impatient, or aggressive drivers driving vehicles so large that they [are] not even able to see me even if they were looking. I love to walk and ride my bike, but it feels like a war zone where one wrong move could end in tragedy ... A careless driver at night could be going the speed limit but still be over driving their headlights [sic] and be left with a physically impossible amount of time to stop before hitting me. Drivers at a crosswalk could hit me and not even know it as they sit too high in their vehicle to see anyone not more than 20 feet in front of them. I have saved myself from debilitating injury or death from all these situations

and more through constant vigilance. I firmly believe that it will only be a matter of time before I do get hit. We are all human and we make mistakes. So when it is my turn to become one of the statistics, I hope it is a small, slow moving sedan that has the full complement of pedestrian safety features to minimize the damage dealt. Dangerous vehicles are just one of the many contributing factors to the absurdly large number of people maimed and killed on US roads. Safety needs to be the number one design constraint on new vehicles. With action now, we could save countless lives in the future.

– James, MT

I regularly bike commute to work, which involves sharing space with drivers during rush hour in my city. One new detour I have to take involves crossing a 6 lane stroad, which has a right turn lane on the far side. The detour forces me to cross in the crosswalk, and the other day I narrowly avoided being killed by a [car] that blew through the crosswalk to turn right on red without stopping ... Drivers do not, and will not look for more vulnerable road users, so the cars need to be built do [sic] do what drivers won't.

– Morgan, CO

Two years ago, my 2-year-old was struck by an SUV in a crosswalk after leaving the playground. She was dragged, her pelvis was fractured, and she will always bear large road rash scars. Could technology like this have prevented her injuries? I am optimistic that it could, especially as the SUV's driver was looking directly into western sun. I'm in support of all measures that keep other families from experiencing this nightmare.

– Emma, DC

It was about 5:45 AM and still dark outside. I was walking across the parking lot to my workplace after parking my car. A driver (who appeared not to see me) turned quickly into a parking space and nearly hit me with the bumper of the car. I stepped out of the way and was startled because of that close call. I could imagine what would have happened if I had been a few feet closer. I wish the vehicle would have had an alert and automatic braking that would have detected me as a pedestrian and would have stopped the car before it got that close.

– Jared, OR

My story is when I was slammed into while walking into [a drugstore] last year. This incident has caused great damage to my life. I am still having medical issues regarding this incident ... I got out of my car and was walking across the parking lot to the entrance to [a drugstore] and this man decided to slam into me ... I felt the blow and passed out and must have slammed to the ground. Woke up with blood coming out of the back of my head and hurt so bad. People were all around me helping me. I call them my angels. The ambulance took me away and took me to the hospital ... So yes, we need to do something about being afraid for safety while crossing the street or riding a bike or walking into a store. This issue is growing dramatically. Extremely

dramatic for the individual who is hit. So please, every new car, SUV, and pickup truck to have [sic] installed with effective pedestrian detection technology that can stop a vehicle-or at least slow it down substantially before hitting someone. I am still suffering physically, emotionally with fear to walk in parking lots or even just walking my dog because of the incident. Please help!

– JoAnne, MA

It was a sunny summer afternoon, a perfect day for biking. I was riding one of my favorite routes. At just about 5 PM on a clear smooth road, traveling at about 19 miles per hour, I noticed a [car] at a stop sign and an upcoming intersection. I didn't think much about it, the [car] was stopped. Seconds before I reached the intersection, the [car] started moving. I screamed [and] I did my best to get around the [car] because I knew I couldn't stop. Fortunately, the [car] was moving slowly, when it hit me. I'm not exactly sure where we made contact. I flew off the bike and landed in the middle of the road on the opposite side of the street. I was lying in the street and the driver came to see how I was ... I was rushed to the hospital and they discovered miraculously, with the exception of cuts and bruises the only significant damage was torn ligaments/tendons in my shoulder. I was pretty lucky. My helmet was cracked in 3 places but my head was not ... The driver of the [car] told the police, "I didn't see him, he was going fast." ... The proposal to add lifesaving protection to vehicles is definitely a life saver. You have my support.

– George, RI

Today, June 12th is 15 years since my brother passed away from the consequences of being ran-over [sic] with a vehicle. This event severely changed my family's lives. The person who hit my brother stated that she didn't see him, but I believe that having pedestrian detection technology may have been able to have alerted her to my brother's position. In the last year, my fiancée and I were hit by a distracted driver on our tandem bike. Thankfully, we did not suffer any major injuries or consequences due to this accident. Having pedestrian detection technology in cars should not be an option, but should be a requirement that will keep both drivers and pedestrians safe.

– Nancy, MO

I bought a ... [vehicle model] for the blind spot detection and ... [detection technology], which I am happy to say has stopped the car when pedestrians come out from between parked cars. We are going to replace our other car in a year. I will not consider a car that lacks these essential safety features.

– Jim, FL

Was driving a ... [vehicle model] that was equipped with ... and pedestrian detection

Traveling south on Broadway in Massapequa, made a [right] on to Sunrise Highway. It was dark and the train station is adjacent to where I was. A commuter was walking across Sunrise Highway (3 lanes each way) in the dark, NOT at the intersection. He was wearing all black, I never saw him but the car did and it hit the brakes.

– Joseph, NY

I was hit by a car wall [sic] crossing a busy intersection in downtown Minneapolis. Fortunately it was just a glancing blow so I was not seriously injured. However, my little eight year old brother was not so fortunate. He was run over by a car before the driver realized she had dragged him many feet. He died. My family was devastated. My mother was in a deep depression for many years because of it. I thank God that I have pedestrian detection on my car. It has saved me from hitting people. It also save[s] some auto damage.

– Benny, MN

In early December 2019 my wife and I were walking back to the parking garage after a concert. It was already dark and there was lots of departing traffic. We were crossing the driveway to reach the garage when an exiting car to the left of us accelerated and turned sharply in our direction to enter the driveway. We were knocked down. I suffered a big bruise on my back but my wife suffered a shattered shoulder joint, several pelvic fractures, and a broken foot bone (both feet were run over). The driver said she did not see us... Today, simply getting into the car for trips to the doctor is a major procedure.

– Ludeman, VA

During the covid lockdown when the gyms were closed, I started walking up and down the hills to the beach in El Segundo, CA. I came to an intersection where I had the right of way and a pickup truck was stopped ... Since the truck was there before I arrived, I waited for him to go, but he didn't move, so I thought he was waiting for me to cross. His windows were tinted, so I couldn't make eye contact, but I began to cross as I thought he was waiting for me to do so. When I was right in front of his truck he revved up his engine and hit me. He said he didn't see me. I suffered a broken tibia and hip, and incurred almost half a million in hospital and rehab care.

– Nadra, CA

I was hit by a car in a crosswalk while riding my bike. I was coming for the vehicle's left. He made a "rolling stop" through the stop sign in the process of making a right turn. Fortunately, he was going slow; but still he hit me, bending the wheel of my bike and breaking my finger. He said he looked to the left, but was looking for cars, and it didn't register with him that someone was entering the crosswalk.

– William, FL

The last thing I remembered was holding my six-year-old daughter's hand as we began crossing the main street, well within the lines of the crosswalk. It was about four in the afternoon, and I had looked both ways before crossing ... My next memory is of being sprawled out on the street, with people leaning over me, and my daughter nowhere to be seen. Despite being told to stay put, I stood up, searching for my daughter, and immediately passed out again. When I came to, my daughter was by my side, unhurt. I had no memory of being hit by a car, no memory of what must have been a considerable impact. According to witnesses, I was hit and sent flying up onto the hood of the car, most likely hitting my head on the front window, before dropping to the street, already unconscious. By sheer luck my daughter was not hit, only traumatized. Also according to witnesses, the driver of the car that hit me was an older woman, who was speeding and either did not see me at all or was unable to stop when she did. She also appeared to be traumatized. I was taken by ambulance to the ER close by, and was able to persuade the EMTs to let my daughter ride with me in the ambulance. Aside from the concussion, I had injured the medial collateral ligament of my left leg and was unable to walk.

– Susan, CA