

Scenario 1E: Improving Safety for Vulnerable Users

GEORGE

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George is 78 years old and is retired. Until last year, he drove most places. Looking back, he can see his reflexes weren't what they once were but he never considered himself unfit to drive. Then the accident happened when another driver ran a red light and hit him broadside as he entered the intersection. With his car totaled and his confidence badly shaken, he decided to stop driving. Now he walks and takes the bus most places. But as someone who doesn't see that well and walks slowly, he worries every day that he won't be seen by the cars, buses and trucks on the busy street he crosses at least twice a day. After a number of near misses as a pedestrian and long waits on the curb, he is starting to spend more time at home, socializing less and relying on family and friends to get his needs met.

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George is 78 years old and is retired. At his recent physical, the doctor said some of his reflexes had slowed and his vision had decreased. Noting this, his son bought him a new car with cutting-edge safety features, including lane-keeping and adaptive cruise control. Thanks to these features, George is safer behind the wheel and he feels more comfortable driving to meet his needs. Knowing that more cars, trucks and buses include similar features makes him feel more comfortable as a pedestrian too. While these technologies are not everywhere, they are starting to make transportation safer for everyone.