



## **Rearview cameras to be mandated in autos in 2014**

*February 28, 2012 - The New York Times and The Star's Laura Bauer contributed to this report.*

Federal mandate is expected to prevent dozens of backover deaths a year. Janette Fennell wonders why it has taken so long.

For several years the Leawood woman has been testifying — twice in front of Congress — and talking to national traffic safety officials about the importance of rearview cameras on vehicles. Those cameras would save lives, she told them, and should be mandatory on new cars. Now, she says, she's finally seeing action.

Federal regulators plan to announce this week that automakers will be required to put rearview cameras in all passenger vehicles by 2014 to help drivers see what is behind them. The National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration, which proposed the mandate in late 2010, is expected to send a final version of the rule to Congress today.

"I tried to get them to do something about this years and years ago," said Fennell, founder of the advocacy group KidsAndCars.org, which works to prevent kids from dying in and around cars. "It's been a long, ongoing process. ... Why does it take a mom from Kansas to let people know we need a rear-visibility standard?"

On average, two children die and about 50 are injured every week when someone accidentally backs over them in a vehicle, according to the group.

A preliminary version circulated for public comment, regulators predicted that adding the cameras and viewing screens would cost the auto industry as much as \$2.7 billion a year, or \$160 to \$200 a vehicle.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/02/28/3458495/rearview-cameras-to-be-mandated.html>