

Learning From London: The Direct Vision Standard for Truck Safety

By Keith T. Kerman

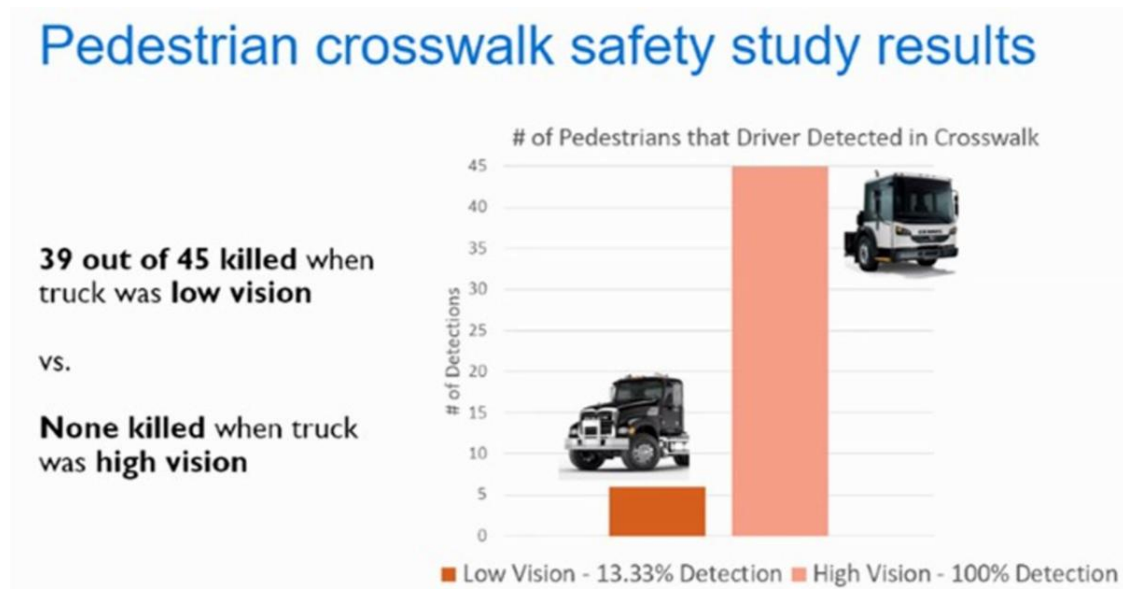


In the last few months, a series of horrific crashes have taken place in the city involving trucks or buses and pedestrians. Most of these crashes took place while the truck or bus was turning. Many New Yorkers including children have lost their lives.

Crashes can have multiple causes, and each is independently investigated. That said, the design of trucks and buses can create major line of sight obstructions that raise the risks of these events.

Look at most trucks in North America. The engine is in front of the driver, creating up to fifteen feet of visual blockage. It doesn't have to be this way.

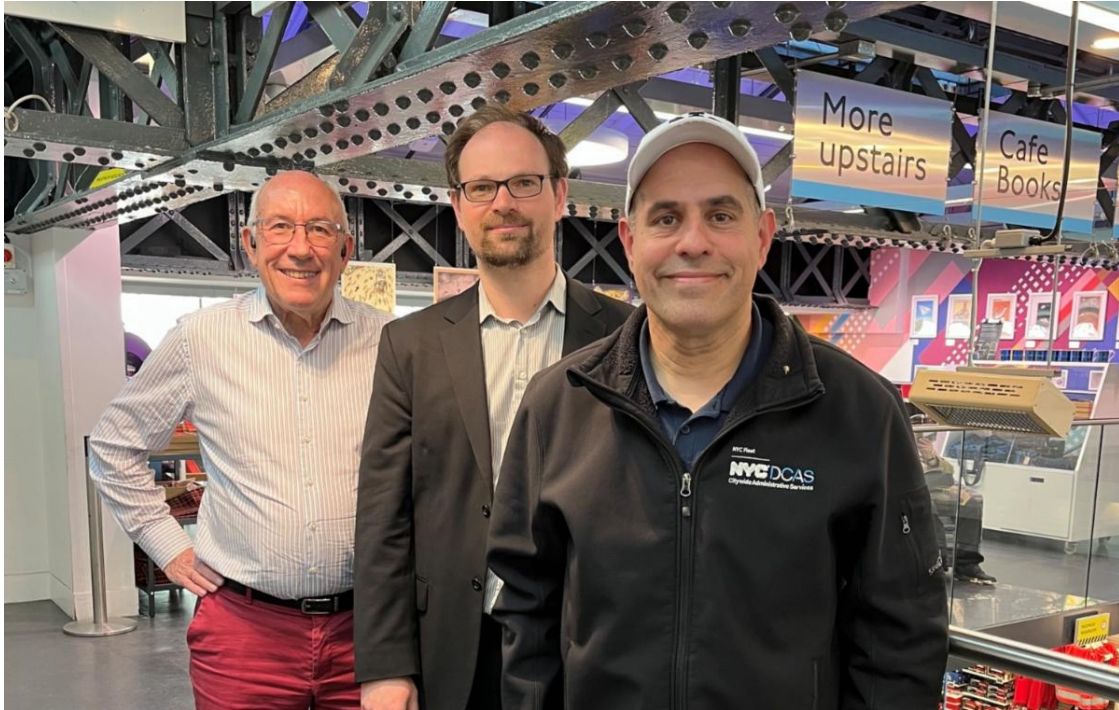
For 10 years, DCAS has partnered with the city of London on safe, sustainable, and efficient fleet, including an [event](#) we host each year. London has implemented a [Direct Vision Standard](#) requiring all trucks, public and commercial, to address visual obstruction as a condition for operating in the city. In the “pedestrian crosswalk” graphic shown here, trucks in London are designed like the truck on the top. Conventional truck design is at the bottom. That is what you mostly see in North America.



This Crosswalk Safety Study was conducted by the [US Department of Transportation Volpe Center](#), who is the main partner of DCAS under [Executive Order 53](#). The study shows clearly the dramatic safety benefits with high vision truck models, especially in crosswalk scenarios.

High vision trucks place the engine, or electric batteries, underneath the driver removing the engine as an obstruction. In addition, in high vision truck design, there may be a lower dashboard and a redesign of windows and doors to improve sight lines.

Where high vision isn't available in the marketplace, or even to create more safety with high vision trucks, surround cameras can be installed to provide a driver with a full view around the truck. Under [Executive Order 39](#), DCAS is now requiring high vision trucks and/or surround cameras for new city fleet trucks and for operational contracts of all agencies going forward. Agencies are working now to apply these requirements to new contracts let by the city.



London was also an inspiration for our installation of [truck sideguards](#) on city and commercial trucks. Mandated and standard for decades in the United Kingdom, these common sense life saving measures are still far too rare in North America. All NYC fleet trucks employ them today as do trucks regulated by the [Business Integrity Commission \(BIC\)](#). Sideguards will also be transitioned to city contractor trucks.

On April 24, DCAS and US DOT Volpe held a day of meetings with [Transport for London](#) officials to talk safety. Like DCAS, London is implementing intelligent speed assistance (ISA), in their case on 5,000 transit buses. This project and the DCAS Fleet ISA project are the two largest ISA initiatives currently in the world. Twenty five percent of London public buses are also electric.

Through the London [Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme \(FORS\)](#), London is also incorporating pedestrian alerts on public and commercial trucks. DCAS is launching a similar effort. FORS also requires safety training for truck operators. Of course, London has joined NYC in committing to [Vision Zero](#).



Thanks to Hannah White and Leon Daniels, and the team at Transport for London, for welcoming us and discussing these safety issues at length. We encourage everyone to learn more about Direct Vision Standard in London and the role that truck design plays in so many tragic outcomes.



This show highlights vendors who support the New York City's Clean Fleet and Vision Zero initiatives, and daily operations. Vendors will offer a wide array of products to improve vehicle safety. The show will also highlight vehicles and equipment with alternative fuels and emissions-reducing technologies, along with the latest in light and heavy-duty vehicles, trucks, horticultural equipment, tools, fleet services, and more!

Thursday,
May 21, 2026
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Accessibility Questions?
Contact DCAS Accessibility
at 212-386-0256, or email
accessibility@dcas.nyc.gov
by May 6, 2025



<https://www.nyc.gov/site/dcas/agencies/nyc-fleet-upcoming-events.page>

37th Annual Equipment & Vehicle Show

Flushing Meadows Corona Park
(by the Unisphere), Queens, NY



100 Mile Bicycle Challenge



100 Mile Bicycle Challenge | Happening Now!

Celebrate National Bike Month with **WorkWell NYC's first bicycle challenge!** Use the Count.It app (**group invite code: ecf4**) to track your progress throughout the month and ride a bike for 100 miles.

Don't own a bicycle? Try a commute with Citi Bike or use a stationary bike. Track your miles and cheer on colleagues in the app!

All experience levels welcome.

[Register here](#) to join!

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[NYC Fleet Newsletter 533, April 23, 2026:](#) Car Free Earth Day, April 25

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