

Hunter Wernecke

Newbies vs Oldies

Black 2004, Dodge Dakota, extended cab, V8...this is my current vehicle. Grey 2021, Kia Telluride, lots of bells and whistles...this is my moms car. Is one more safe over the other because of all the safety features? This is a question I think about when I drive either of these vehicles. I think it can actually be looked at as both a benefit and a hindrance.

My older model truck really has no safety features that I can think of anyway. There is no back up camera, no front, back, or side sensors. There is no front collision alarm, no child safety locks or traction control. These "bells and whistles" I like to call them can be quite crippling. For example when my mother drives my truck she many times starts to back up right away forgetting there is no back up camera! It's the old school way, use your mirrors! This same idea also happens with the side sensors and mirrors. The Telluride sounds an alarm if you turn on the blinker but there is a vehicle in that other lane, letting you know it is not safe to switch lanes. We both have to be careful that we do not move to the other lane if we do not hear an immediate beeping, again it's the old fashioned mirrors here.

These bells and whistles can work for us though. An example of this would be the front collision alarm. In the Telluride there is an immediate beeping and even a braking that happens if the sensors are activated. Sure, we should all pay better attention that we do not rear end a vehicle in front of us, but sometimes it just takes the blink of an eye and someone can stop abruptly. This safety feature is surely a positive over the Dodge Dakota. One other safety feature I appreciate in the Telluride is the backup camera. This feature I have found to be especially helpful in the Wal-Mart parking lot for instance. When backing up I sometimes worry I will hit a pedestrian or back into another vehicle who is also backing up (because my mom has done that!). The sensors on the Telluride beep pretty loud and the brakes will also engage if it feels we are going to hit something. It can be annoying at times because even if there is no chance of hitting something, it still can pick up on small things and the breaks come on.

My final thought on newbies versus oldies is that it is ideal for brand new drivers to drive vehicles without these safety features. This way they learn all the safety features of driving first hand, without all the fancy features.