Research in Progress

Evaluating the Effectiveness of Drivers' Education Modules on Safety

Research Need

There is mixed evidence as to the effectiveness of drivers' education courses. It is also unknown whether drivers' education can be used to train drivers on how to effectively uses driving automation.

Goals/Objectives

- Examine how differences in drivers' education program delivery affects novice drivers' behavior, crashes, and citations within 12 months of licensure.
- Examine how differences in novice drivers' pre-license behaviors affect crashes and citations within 12 months of licensure.
- Examine how driver education and training programs can help improve novice drivers' use and understanding of ADAS.

Methodology

1. We will begin by examining stakeholder insight using interviews and/or focus groups to develop an informed perspective on current drivers' education and training in Massachusetts.
2. The insights gained from the stakeholder surveys and interviews will be leveraged to inform the design of the content and delivery of a drivers' education training program for ADAS – advanced driving assistance systems.
3. To assess the effectiveness of drivers' education, we will undertake a longitudinal, between-subjects research experiment where each participant will complete a series of surveys and a driving simulator experiment.
4. Approximately one year about the experiment (in step 3), we will extract crash and citations records of the teen drivers.