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WAKE COUNTY NEWS

New NCDOT app tested at NC State helps protect pedestrians, cyclists

by: [Baron James](#)

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RALEIGH, N.C. (WNCN) — The North Carolina Department of Transportation has launched a new road safety pilot program in Raleigh at N.C. State University.

The program that could go statewide features a free mobile app called YU2X.

The Multimodal Connected Vehicle (CV) Pilot, supported by a \$2 million grant, will use advanced technology to protect pedestrians, cyclists, drivers, scooter users, and bus riders at 27 intersections around campus.

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Key roads in the project include Hillsborough Street, Western Boulevard, Avent Ferry Road, and Gorman Street.

“I’m seeing it’s letting me choose a mode of transportation — I’m gonna be walking (so) gonna press that,” N.C. State junior Emma Miles said as she used the crosswalk and road safety app for the first time.

It allows users to activate the crosswalk sign in their favor from a distance letting them know when they can cross the street safely.

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YU2X also provides users — on the crosswalks and on the streets — with red light, work zone and speeding warnings.

“When people are walking and it’s, like, towards the end of the numbers,” Miles added. “There’s some cars that will fly by for sure.”

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NCDOT says it will only use the real-time location data to understand whether the app is improving traffic operations and safety for all road users.

“I think it’s definitely something that could be extremely useful for campus for sure,” N.C. State freshman Jacob Cheatham said. “So, I’ll definitely look into it.”

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Some are not sold on the new idea.

“I feel like our system we have now already works,” N.C. State junior Elias Hilliard said. “So, like, why even try to do more to it?”

NCDOT says the goal is to create a connected environment that tests the safety benefits of CV technology. This includes updating road infrastructure and using smart transportation systems to evaluate these technologies.

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The transportation department is hosting a series of virtual information and feedback meetings on the road safety app. The first meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11 at 6 p.m.

For more information, please visit the [project website](#).

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