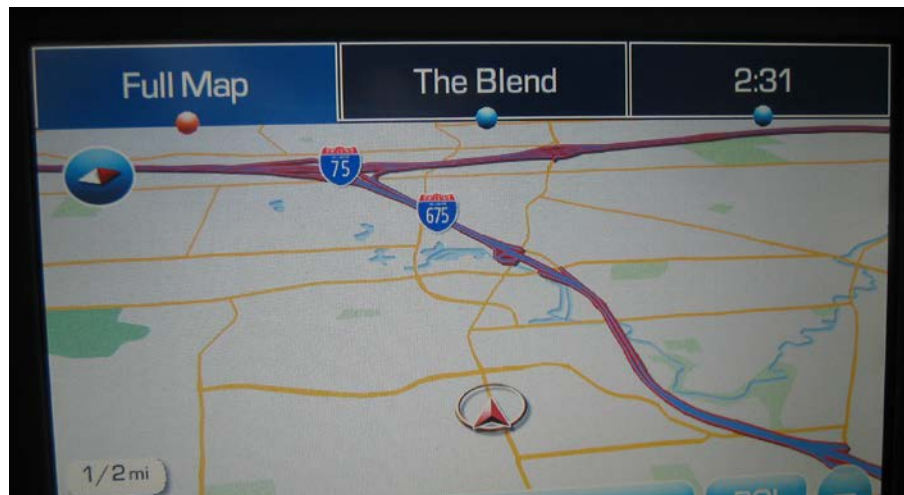


Wheels: What new items are available today that may become common on all vehicles?

Halderman: Once a luxury item is experienced, it becomes a necessity. I can remember thinking that having air conditioning in a vehicle was the ultimate luxury and now I will not purchase a vehicle without air conditioning. In fact, it is difficult to even find a vehicle without air conditioning unless you live in Alaska or Canada. Here are several new features that may become necessities in the future:

1. **Navigation systems** – An onboard navigation system that uses the global positioning satellites (GPS) to locate your vehicle is becoming more popular, especially on vehicles used for travel to unknown areas. No monthly charge is associated with this option as it receives signals from satellites that are part of the U.S. government and used at no charge.

Caption: A typical navigation screen, showing the roadways from a bird's eye view. (Photo by James Halderman)



2. **Backup camera** – This is a great option that I think will become mainstream soon, especially on vehicles that have a navigation display.

Caption: A backup camera image as displayed on the dash-mounted screen. (Photo by James Halderman)



3. **Satellite radio** – There are two service

providers of satellite radio – Sires and XM. Both offer many channels of digital radio for a monthly fee. Because they use satellite and repeater stations in large cities, the radio channels can be received throughout the country. Another music choice includes MP3 players and USB ports in vehicles that now allow the use of stored music files instead of receiving line broadcasts. However, sporting events and talk shows make satellite radio a great option for those who travel.



Caption: The antenna used for satellite radio can be many different shapes, including one that looks like a shark fin. (Photo by James Halderman)

Caption: An XM satellite radio display shown with a compass heading on this Cadillac. (Photo by James Halderman)



4. **Heated seats** – In colder climates, heated seats are a really useful option. Some vehicles, such as some Cadillac models, allow the driver and/or passenger to select the seat back or seat bottom. Some vehicles even have heated rear seats and some offer cooled seats.

Caption: The door-mounted heated seat control on a Cadillac, showing that the back only or both the back and seat bottom can be individually selected. (Photo by James Halderman)

