

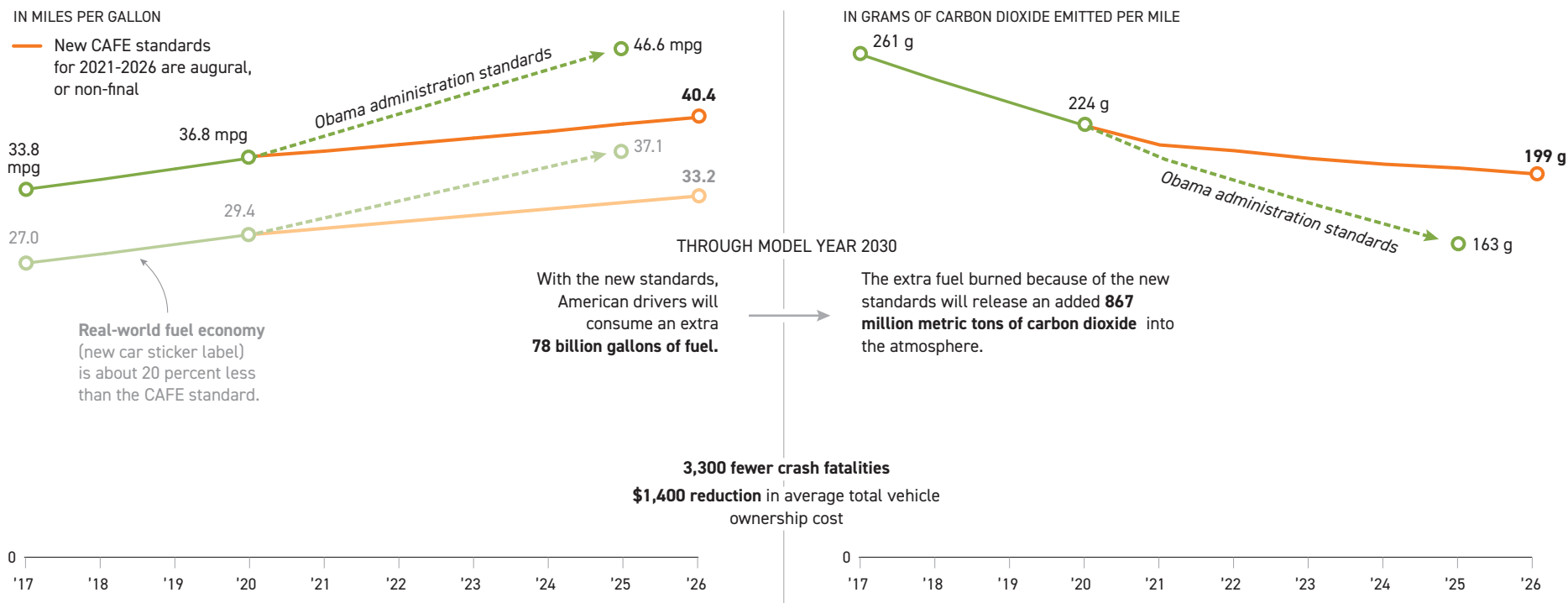
April 2, 2020

Trump's SAFE rule promises cheaper, less-efficient new vehicles

President Donald Trump is rolling back fuel efficiency standards with the Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient Vehicles rule, which requires automakers to improve fuel efficiency for cars and light trucks by 1.5 percent per year. Obama-era regulations required annual improvements of 5 percent. The administration's rationale behind the new rule is to save lives: Less-fuel efficient cars will cost less to buy, allowing more people access to newer, safer cars. But the rule does not adequately consider the deaths that come with added petroleum pollution and increased carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, according to the Environmental Defense Fund, which claims that environmental mortality will outweigh lives saved with cheap cars by a factor of three.

Trump's fuel economy standards

Average OEM estimated requirements for combined average passenger cars and light trucks



Sources: EPA, NHTSA, EDF, NRDC, POLITICO Pro staff reports by Alex Guillén and Zack Colman