



VEHICLE PURSUITS LE-050

Adopted: 2024/04/01

Policy Statement

The Peel Regional Police Service Board (the “Board”) is unwavering in its dedication to ensuring that the safety of the citizens of Peel and the safety of the Peel Regional Police Service’s (the “Service”) members are paramount in all aspects of police decision-making, including with respect to vehicle pursuits. With robust processes and policies in place, the Service’s members will be better equipped to meet this objective in determining whether to initiate a vehicle pursuit.

Policy Application

1. Definitions

- a. **Vehicle Pursuit** means a pursuit that occurs when a police officer pursues, in a motor vehicle, another motor vehicle that the officer had attempted to stop but that failed to stop and remain in place.
- b. **Vehicle Pursuit Procedures** means the procedures established by the Chief of Police pursuant to section 4 and section 5 of Ontario Regulation 397/23

2. General

The Chief of Police shall comply with Ontario Regulation 397/23 – Vehicle Pursuits and ensure that:

- a. A police officer shall not initiate or continue a vehicle pursuit unless:
 - i. the officer has reason to believe that:
 1. A criminal offence has been committed or is about to be committed; and
 2. Stopping the motor vehicle is necessary to apprehend an individual in connection with the offence or to prevent the commission of the offence; or
 - ii. the purpose of the pursuit is to identify the motor vehicle or an individual inside the motor vehicle.

- b. A police officer shall not initiate a vehicle pursuit unless the officer has first determined that,
 - i. The vehicle pursuit is permitted under subsection 2(1) of Ontario Regulation 397/23;
 - ii. There are no alternatives set out in the vehicle pursuit procedures that can readily be implemented in the circumstances; and
 - iii. The risk to public safety that may result from the pursuit is outweighed by the risk to public safety that may result if,
 - 1. An individual in the fleeing motor vehicle is not immediately apprehended, or
 - 2. The fleeing motor vehicle or an individual in the fleeing motor vehicle is not identified.
- c. A police officer shall not initiate a vehicle pursuit for a non-criminal offence if the identity of an individual in the fleeing motor vehicle is known.
- d. A police officer shall continually reassess the determination of the risk to public safety made under subsection 2(2) of Ontario Regulation 397/23
- e. A police officer shall discontinue a vehicle pursuit if,
 - i. Due to a change in circumstances, the vehicle pursuit ceases to be permitted under subsection 2(1) of Ontario Regulation 397/23;
 - ii. In the case of a vehicle pursuit for a non-criminal offence, the fleeing motor vehicle or an individual in the fleeing motor vehicle is identified; or
 - iii. The police officer subsequently determines that the risk to public safety that may result from continuing the pursuit is no longer outweighed by the risk to public safety that would result if either of the circumstances described in subsections 2(2)(c)(i) or (ii) of Ontario Regulation 397/23 occurs.
- f. A police officer shall not engage in a vehicle pursuit unless the officer is in a marked police motor vehicle, unless:
 - i. A marked police motor vehicle is not readily available; and

- ii. The police officer believes that it is necessary to immediately apprehend an individual in the fleeing motor vehicle or to identify the fleeing motor vehicle or an individual in the fleeing motor vehicle.
- g. A police officer shall notify a dispatcher when the officer initiates a vehicle pursuit; and the dispatcher shall notify the applicable supervisor identified in the vehicle pursuit procedures.
- h. The supervisor identified in the vehicle pursuit procedures shall order the police officer(s) to discontinue the vehicle pursuit if, in the opinion of the supervisor, the risk to public safety that may result from the pursuit outweighs the risk to public safety that may result if an individual in the fleeing motor vehicle is not immediately apprehended or if the fleeing motor vehicle or an individual in the fleeing motor vehicle is not identified.
- i. A police officer shall not discharge a firearm for the sole purpose of attempting to stop a fleeing motor vehicle.
- j. A police officer shall consider the tactics for stopping a motor vehicle as set out in the vehicle pursuit procedures.
- k. A police officer shall not intentionally cause a motor vehicle to come into physical contact with a fleeing motor vehicle, except in the following circumstances:
 - i. The purpose of the maneuver is to stop the fleeing motor vehicle and the officer, after having assessed the effect of the maneuver on the safety of other individuals, believes on reasonable grounds that the maneuver is necessary to immediately protect against loss of life or serious bodily harm.
 - ii. The purpose of the maneuver is to pin the motor vehicle where,
 1. The driver of the motor vehicle has lost control of the vehicle or collided with an object, causing the vehicle to come to a stop, and
 2. The driver continues to try and use the motor vehicle to flee.

3. The Chief of Police shall establish procedures that meet the requirements of section 4 and section 5 of Ontario Regulation 397/23 and this Policy.
4. The Chief of Police shall keep records as required pursuant to section 13(1) of Ontario Regulation 397/23.

Reporting

5. The Chief of Police shall provide the Board with a report within 30 days of a vehicle pursuit that resulted in injury to any person, including a police officer, and/or damage to any property, including property of the Board and/or Service, unless the SIU invokes its mandate.
6. The Chief of Police shall provide the Board with a report, upon request, unless the SIU invokes its mandate, detailing:
 - a. The number of vehicle pursuits initiated by police officers within a time frame specified by the Board;
 - b. The number of those vehicle pursuits that were discontinued and the reason they were discontinued;
 - c. The number of those vehicle pursuits that resulted in:
 - i. The identification of the fleeing motor vehicle,
 - ii. The identification of an individual in the fleeing motor vehicle,
 - iii. The apprehension of individuals in the fleeing motor vehicle,
 - iv. The use of alternative measure, as set out in the vehicle pursuit procedures

Authority/Legislative Reference

s. 38(2), *Community Safety & Policing Act, 2019*
O. Reg. 397/23: Vehicle Pursuits, s.3