

# Surveillance Impact Report (SIR) Material Update

*Seattle Police Department (SPD) Tracking Devices SIR*

*June 10, 2025*

# Reminder: Purpose of Proposed Legislation

- Original Surveillance Impact Report (SIR) for Tracking Devices technology was passed by the City Council on **2/28/23** (Ordinance 126776).
- SPD has received a **\$250,000 grant** from the WA State Dept. of Commerce for Law Enforcement Pursuit Technology, which will help local law enforcement mitigate vehicle pursuits.
- SPD acquiring pursuit mitigation GPS tracker launchers qualifies as a material update, therefore requiring this proposed legislation.
- Section 14.18.020.F of the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) states that "*[a]ny material update to an SIR, such as to change the purpose or manner in which a surveillance technology may be used, shall be by ordinance.*" SMC 14.18 does not require material updates to go through the same process as the original SIR.





# What is the Material Update?

- SPD is seeking this tool in accordance with RCW 10.116.060.2.d, which requires agencies to *“develop a plan to end the pursuit through the use of available pursuit intervention options,”* ensuring compliance with recent state law updates regarding pursuit mitigation.
- This specialized GPS tracker allows SPD to track the precise location of a vehicle for which probable cause or reasonable suspicion of involvement in a crime has been established and accomplish the task of recovery or arrest without the need for initiating or continuing a vehicle pursuit.
- **25 SPD patrol vehicles will be equipped with GPS tracker launchers.**
- All sworn SPD officers will be trained in the use of pursuit mitigation GPS trackers.
- Pursuit mitigation GPS trackers will be monitored primarily by the Real Time Crime Center and information will be relayed to patrol units in the field. Patrol units can also monitor the trackers' location directly if RTCC is unavailable.

## SENATE BILL REPORT SI 2113

As Passed Senate, March 4, 2024

**Title:**

**Brief Description:** Concerning vehicular pursuits by peace officers.

**Sponsors:** People of the State of Washington.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Law & Justice: 2/28/24, 3/01/24 [DP, DNP, w/oRec].

**Floor Activity:** Passed Senate: 3/4/24, 36-13.

### Brief Summary of Initiative

- Expands authorization for vehicular pursuits by allowing an officer to conduct a vehicular pursuit where there is reasonable suspicion a person has violated the law.
- Modifies the risk assessment for engaging in vehicular pursuits by providing that an officer may not engage in a vehicular pursuit unless the person poses a threat to the safety of others and the safety risks of failing to apprehend or identify the person are considered to be greater than the safety risks of the vehicular pursuit under the circumstances.

# Follow up

## How long has StarChase been in business?

- 2011

## What is the effectiveness rate?

- Through 2023, Starchase reports agencies across the US had a 92% tag adhesion rate and an 86% apprehension rate on deployment of their tags.
- In WA state that number is lower. Utilizing reporting data from 14 agencies from April 2024 to April 2025, the success rate is 52%. For the local report, success was defined as adhesion and suspect in custody. The most recent agency to deploy, KCSO, reports they have 100% success, with 5 tags deployed, adhered, and suspects in custody.

## What are the metrics for success?

- Starchase reports that adhesion and arrests are the metrics most used. SPD PA&R research scientists will look for other metrics that show effects based on the deployment of Starchase.



# Questions

