

GPS Trackers Material Changes

Seattle Police Department (SPD)

What is the technology?

GPS Trackers are a combination of software and hardware used for capturing location and travel information of tagged vehicles.

Trackers are used to locate vehicles involved in criminal investigations. Covert trackers are used with warrants, where pursuit mitigation trackers are used with probable cause or reasonable suspicion on potentially fleeing vehicles.

In 2022 the Seattle City Council passed the ordinance authorizing the use of covert GPS tracking devices for investigative purposes.

The open comment period for this technology is currently underway. You can provide comments to [Seattle.gov/SurveillanceComment](https://seattle.gov/surveillancecomment).

All comments will be included in the Surveillance Impact Report on this technology and submitted to Council.

If you would like to provide feedback outside of the open comment period, please submit them directly to City Council.

What is the material change requested?

- 25 SPD patrol vehicles will be equipped with GPS tracker launchers, deployed throughout the patrol operations bureau precincts.
- All sworn SPD officers will be trained in the use of pursuit mitigation GPS trackers, ensuring compliance with recent state law updates regarding pursuit mitigation.
- Pursuit mitigation GPS trackers will be monitored by the Real Time Crime Center and information will be relayed to patrol units in the field.

What will not change?

- **No changes will be made to the previously approved requirements related to covert tracking systems.**