



**CITY OF MADISON POLICE DEPARTMENT
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE**



Vehicle Escorts

Eff. Date 11/11/2025

PURPOSE

The Madison Police Department (MPD) may, within the guidelines of Wisconsin Statute 346.215 and upon approval of the Chief of Police or the Chief's designee, provide a police escort to a vehicle or a procession of vehicles for purposes of expediency, safety, dignitary protection, or other special circumstances.

Escorts are provided to enhance public safety and traffic flow. Impact on the general public and traffic will be minimized to the degree that allows for the necessary mission of the escort.

PROCEDURE

I. CONSIDERATION TO PROVIDE ESCORT:

- A. When considering whether to provide a police escort, the following factors should be considered:
- Dignitary escort requested by an agency providing protective service.
 - Known or potential threat to person(s) to be escorted.
 - The need to keep a large group together, thus improving overall traffic safety and traffic flow.
 - The movement of large vehicles through congested areas.
 - Funeral Escorts approved and coordinated by MPD Honor Guard.

II. ESCORT PROCEDURE

- A. A Commander, Supervisor or their designee will plan and direct the escort following guidelines set forth by this procedure. This will generally be the responsibility of the Traffic Section.
- B. The following factors should be considered when planning the escort:
- The number and type of vehicles to be escorted.
 - The personnel and resources needed and available.
 - The distance and duration of escort.
 - The impact on general traffic flow.
 - The time of day the escort will take place.
 - Threats or other safety concerns.
 - Protest activity related to the escort.
 - Alternate routes if the primary route becomes unusable or unsafe.
- C. With the above factors considered, the escort should be done safely, efficiently, and in a manner consistent with the reason for the escort.
- A minimum of one police vehicle shall lead the vehicle or procession of vehicles, and a minimum of one police vehicle shall be in the rear of the vehicle or procession of vehicles as required by Wisconsin Statute 346.215.
 - The route of the police escort shall be planned, based in part, on considerations of the factors listed above. The people being escorted may request a specific route;

however, that route should be evaluated by the supervisor planning the route or their designee.

- All personnel involved in the escort will be thoroughly briefed on the intended route, as well as any alternate routes, should the primary route become unavailable or unsafe.
- In the planning stages the Dane County Public Safety Communications Center will be notified of the escort route, agencies involved (and personnel assigned, if able), and communication support needed.
- The Officer in Charge will be notified of the escort logistics and provided with an escort plan, if available.
- In the case of a dignitary protection escort, a hospital and a safe house will be identified in case of emergency need.

D. For cases that will have a significant impact on the public, consideration should be given to disseminating a press release notifying the public of the escort and alternative routes the public may consider.

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(Reviewed Only: 11/01/2016, 12/26/2017, 01/31/2020)
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