

**East Lansing Police Department
Policy & Procedure**

Subject: Roadblocks and Forcible Blocking	ELPD Policy #: 300-20
Effective Date: March 1, 2022 Revised Date:	Distribution: Departmental
MACP Accreditation Standard: Roadblocks and Forcible Stopping	MACP Standard: 3.5.3

I. PURPOSE

This written directive establishes policy and procedures regarding police operation of motor vehicles by employees of this Department in reference to roadblocks and forcible blocking of vehicles.

II. POLICY

The use of intentional collisions or roadblocks shall be considered the use of potentially deadly force and shall only be used when deadly force is justified as a “last resort” measure, pursuant to departmental rules, policies, and procedures, and after other reasonable means of apprehension have been exhausted.
[3.5.3a]

III. PROCEDURE [3.5.3b]

- A. All intentional collisions and roadblocks require the prior approval and/or direction of the supervisor on duty. [3.5.3d]
- B. In the event that an intentional collision is to be utilized, it shall be undertaken at a location that offers minimal potential for injury of bystanders or other motorists.
- C. In the event that a “roadblock” is to be utilized, it shall be established at a location that allows for adequate planning and set-up time.
- D. Vehicles will be positioned with due regard for the safety of all involved persons, and in a manner that allowed motorists to reasonably stop.
- E. The roadblock must be established where it should not surprise the violator. The violator must be given a reasonable opportunity to observe the roadblock and reasonable time and reasonable space to bring their vehicle to a stop.
- F. The roadblock must be established to properly warn and exclude uninvolved motorists from the area of the roadblock.

- G. All available warning lights shall be on. Care should be taken to avoid blinding oncoming traffic with spotlights and/or headlights.
- H. Vehicle(s) shall not be occupied by officers. Officers should move a reasonable and safe distance away from the roadblock vehicles.
- I. Except in cases of extreme need, a roadblock shall be so located as to allow an escape path for the fleeing vehicle.
- J. Civilian vehicles shall not be commandeered or used for roadblocks.
- K. As a general policy, officers should not pull alongside of or attempt to overtake or pass a fleeing suspect. Boxing-in maneuvers (or rolling roadblocks) are also prohibited.
- L. Proper self-discipline and sound professional judgment are the keys to a successful conclusion of a pursuit and apprehension of evading suspects. Officers shall use only that amount of force that reasonably appears necessary given the facts and circumstances perceived by the officer at the time of the event to accomplish a legitimate law enforcement purpose. Unless relieved by a supervisor, the primary pursuing officer should coordinate efforts to apprehend the suspect following the pursuit. Officers should consider the safety of the public and the involved officers when formulating plans for setting up perimeters or for containing and capturing the suspect. [3.5.3c]
- M. All appropriate reports shall be completed by all officers involved or that act in the pursuit, roadblock, or forcible blocking. [3.5.3e]
- N. Supervisors shall conduct a meaningful review of each pursuit, roadblock, and forcible stopping. [3.5.3f]
- O. In addition to initial and supplementary training on pursuits, all officers will participate, no less than annually, in regular and periodic training addressing this policy and the importance of vehicle safety and protecting the public. Training will include recognition of the need to balance the known offense and the need for immediate capture against the risks to officers and others. [3.5.3g]

IV. CANCELLATIONS

Authorized By:



Kim Johnson, Chief of Police