



POLICY

Body Worn Cameras

Policy Group: Regional and Foundational Policies

Policy Reference: TBD

Business Unit Responsible: MT: Transit Police

Date Adopted: xx/xx/2020

Policy Owner: Metro Transit, Police Chief

Date Last Updated: xx/xx/2020

Policy Contact: Leah Palmer, Policy Analyst/Project Manager

Synopsis: This policy is to identify the purpose of body-worn cameras, identify applicable state statute, and provide a mechanism for accountability.

POLICY STATEMENT

In order to maintain a modern, responsive, and collaborative Metropolitan Transit Police Department, the Metropolitan Council authorizes the use of body-worn cameras and directs the Chief of Police to adopt a policy pursuant to [Minnesota Statutes section 626.8473](#).

PURPOSE

- To provide a framework for the effective implementation and use of body-worn cameras by the Metro Transit Police Department.
- To identify roles and responsibilities with regard to the use of body-worn cameras.
- To ensure compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and regulations.
- To increase trust and accountability between the Metro Transit Police Department and the public.
- To balance privacy rights and law enforcement needs.

BACKGROUND AND REASONS FOR POLICY

Body-worn cameras are a proven law-enforcement tool used by law enforcement agencies across the country.

Body-worn cameras are commonly used for three primary reasons: to increase trust between police and the communities they serve; to reduce confrontations and complaints against police; and to provide another source of evidence for criminal investigations and prosecution. The Council recognizes that, in order for the Metro Transit Police Department to be a 21st century law enforcement agency, body-worn cameras are a logical step in modernizing its operations.

In order to purchase or implement the use of body-worn cameras, the Metro Transit Police Department is required under Minnesota Statutes section 626.8473 to accept public comment on a draft policy governing use of body-worn cameras. On Dec. 11, 2019, the Metropolitan Council's governing body authorized the publication of Metro Transit Police Department's draft Body-worn Camera Policy ([MTPD Policy 451](#)) and provided for public comment, which was held on Jan. 8, 2020.

The Metro Transit Police Department's policy and its related procedures are based on Minnesota Statutes section 626.8473, subd. 3(b), and on research of best practices, assessment of model policies, reviews of large-scale national studies, and discussions with local police departments that are currently using body-worn cameras.

IMPLEMENTATION/ACCOUNTABILITY

Body-worn cameras will be implemented in accordance with all applicable state statutes governing portable recording systems.

The Metro Transit Police Department will obtain an audit of the body-worn camera program in compliance with state law and conducted by the Council's internal audit office or another agency as delegated by the audit office.

In the event of a serious or critical police incident, the Chief of Police must consult with the General Manager of Metro Transit, the Regional Administrator, and the Office of General Counsel as part of the decision-making process for disclosing body-worn camera video.

The Metro Transit Police Department will conduct periodic training on the policies and procedures for the use of Body-worn cameras.

POLICY UPDATES

The Metro Transit Police Department will appear before the Metropolitan Council as appropriate to provide updates regarding the body-worn camera program. Updates to the Metro Transit Police Department's Police 451 may be made at the direction of the Chief of Police in order to better serve the public, the department's officers, and the mission of the Metro Transit Police Department. Updates to Metro Transit Police Department Policy 451 will be reflected in the Policy and Procedure Manual that is posted on the Metro Transit Police Department's website.

RESOURCES

Statutes:

- [Minnesota Statutes section 626.8473](#)

Other Resources:

- [MTP Policy 451](#)
- [Policy and Procedure Manual](#)

Keywords: Metro Transit Police Department, body worn cameras, law enforcement

HISTORY

This is a record of significant changes by date, for the specified policy.

Adopted (Business Item 2020-82):

March 2020

Date Last Updated: xx/xx/2020

Next Content Review Year: 2022