BILL012(26)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 53

*INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORTATION & TECHNOLOGY (ITT)

***INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORTATION & TECHNOLOGY (ITT) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Feb 4, 2026 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 0

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Herbert Allen	herbertspam@proton.me	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	Feb 2, 2026 @ 11:42 AM

Testimony:

Dear ITT committee,

I support the intent to provide better access to City data to the public. I urge you to consider a revision to this bill to designate the responsible parties as the department or agencies which own the associated infrastructure. The public would be best informed by getting as close the source as possible, without additional layers of needing to pass data between different departments or sections.

The language regarding "website" in it's current form I believe can be misinterpreted, and could inadvertently cause the data to be more segmented than the Council intends. The City and County has an Open Data Portal already available which allows you to view geospatial data and this existing IT infrastructure could be utilized. The State also has a similar Open Data portal, and if this information was presented in conjunction with either of these portals, it would allow for deeper analysis combining more data than just what is specified in this bill. One such example might be combining census data with capacity data to find a 'per capita' capacity for either type of sewer system. Requiring the data to be provided through the existing portals also opens the data for better discovery to others who may not be aware of the website designated by this bill, such as researchers who are looking for data portals from multiple states to compare practices across the country.

Consider a revision or separate bill which designates that the City should provide a website and/or guidance on instead how to combine different data sets from the existing data portals, in addition to this bill requiring the City provide the listed data via those portals. As testimony from Dr. Falinski indicates, some of the currently provided data is already utilized by researchers and students, but perhaps the average member of the public not currently studying or having past familiarity with geospatial data may not understand how to utilize the data. Rather than require a specific presentation of just two data sources, instead enable the public to view and combine ANY of the existing data sources provided at the City or State levels. While there are free tools for the public to utilize both existing data, and the additional data as specified under this bill, it can be complicated. If the City were to provide information on how to "plug in" to data sources rather than a single view of data sources, there could be deeper insights available by looking at novel combinations of seemingly "unrelated" data that you or I have not yet considered.

As an example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, testing of wastewater at sewage treatment plants provided information on virus levels captured in a way that did not rely on self-reporting to medical professionals. If this sort of data were combined with the information specified under this bill along with census data available at either the Federal or State (which appears to also provide a copy of the Federal data), there could be insights that would allow more targeted interventions rather than broad island-or-state-wide mandates.

The City and County has geospatial professionals employed across at least 6 different departments(including ENV, DFM, and DIT). Leveraging our resources and allowing the public to call upon this existing knowledge base in conjunction with using existing data-infrastructure may be a better use of limited resources than requiring a separate website that needs to be separately maintained.

Putting the infrastructure owners in charge of providing the information means the data is not only more up-to-date, but if there are any potential questions or required interpretations, the authority on answering those would be more readily available.

Mahalo,
Herbert Allen