**Urban Information Systems**

Urban information systems are powerful means for governments in meeting long-term strategic planning and management challenges. For example the information from a geographic information database helps in planning, zoning, transportation, utilities, flood management, urbanisation and its impact on the environment and the use of demographics in making public policy. It provides a heightened awareness of the interdependency among environmental, social and economic health and the impact of decisions made by neighbouring jurisdictions, state and federal agencies and private business

Urban information system provides various information on urban (facilities, urban planning, environment, disaster prevention, water supply, transportation, etc.) for municipalities to perform effective administration and decision-making. In order to establish security system for municipalities, effective management of infrastructure should be preceded and the maintenance of the facilities by urban information system is very effective. Maps, statistics, and all the data that can be components of urban information system are produced and managed by each department (transportation, urban planning, water supply and drainage, environmental protection, etc.) Introduction of urban information system can integrate all the information related to each other and make the use of information easier and more efficient.

**Urban Information System****Issues**

**Freedom of Information**

Freedom of information is concerned about the measures that ensure individual citizens rights to privacy and protection against disclosure and other related abuses in government collection and re-use of data and also public access to agencies records and information.

**Disclosure**

The argument about privacy is two-dimensional:

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| bullet | **Informing the public**: How is the public told about when, what and which data about individuals and property data is collected, stored, sold and/or given away? Does the average citizen even understand that information they give to the government in everyday interactions may be disclosed publicly in return for their access to public services? When a citizen accesses a public website leaving behind a trail of data, then be collected through the use of web site technology eventually distributed or sold by the agency? |
| bullet | **Privacy issues**:  Is it necessary to disclose private details about individuals and/or specific geographic locations to make data useful to outsiders? How can agencies discern end use of its data? And what recourse should the agency have on behalf of its citizenry in the wrongful or harmful disclosure of detailed data? Should citizens have some form of recourse, some punitive action, some financial claim? Or simply the legal means by which the record must be publicly set straight if wronged? |

**Municipal Liability**

There is a constant tug between privacy concerns and information needed for community decisions and community protection.  The following are problems that can only be decided issue by issue, mainly by a legislature at the appropriate level:  Should agencies that collect and distribute data be held legally responsible for data content? If so, by whom? Should they also be held accountable for actual content when further disclosure beyond an initial and agreed upon data distribution occurs? Can an agency or a collective acting on behalf of many agencies perform public data distribution after its initial collection and not be held responsible? What rights does the agency have to protect itself from possible data abuse? How can an agency protect itself from possible litigation by the citizenry as a result of data disclosure and/or sale? And when is the agency released from harm should data be wrongfully used or misrepresented with regards to data accuracy?

**Urban Information System****Economics**

The "enterprising government" style has been embraced by public agencies wishing to make a profit from data.  The question is whether the sale of data by government agencies is appropriate or not and, how does one determine the price of the products?

However, there often is a large gap between funding data collection, maintenance and production costs and what is recovered in costs through pricing the sale of the assimilated data using a market competitive situation.

Collecting the data from citizens via applications to government, through the use of surveys, tax forms, even questions become a very expensive means to ensure some degree of accuracy and data maintenance. There is an overwhelming need to increase public funding of public data collection and maintenance. Prices charged for data could vary widely from covering just data reproduction costs, to including all marginal costs, to including a share of the basic costs, to all the market can bear