



Reconnecting the  
**WESTSIDE**

[ReconnectWestside.com](https://ReconnectWestside.com)



# Sign up for Updates:



**(816) 648-7863**



**Contact@ReconnectWestside.com**



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**@KansasCity**

**Visit the project website  
to stay up to date**

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# Reconnecting the Westside Community Summit #1

## Share Valuable Stories + Identify Needs

Saturday, April 5, 2025 from 9:30–11:30am

Thank you to our host

**Boulevard Brewery**

**2534 Madison Ave, Kansas City, MO 64108**





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# Hon. Quinton Lucas

Kansas City Mayor



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# Kimiko Gilmore

Interim City Manager

# 4<sup>th</sup> District City Council Members



**Crispin Rea**  
4th District at Large



**Eric Bunch**  
4th District



# Agenda

- Project Background + Community History
- What We Know So Far
- Moving Forward Together
- Your Input is Essential



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# Background

# Funding

The **Reconnecting the Westside** project is funded through a combination of federal and local resources. A **\$1 million grant from the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods** program, part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, supports the project's Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study and community engagement efforts.



**U.S. Representative  
Emanuel Cleaver, II**  
Missouri's Fifth  
Congressional District

# Think Big, but also Small

## Short Term

1-3 years

- Murals
- Lighting
- Art Installation
- Events
- Sidewalk Repair
- Traffic Calming
- Highway Lighting & Signage

## Medium Term

3-8 Years

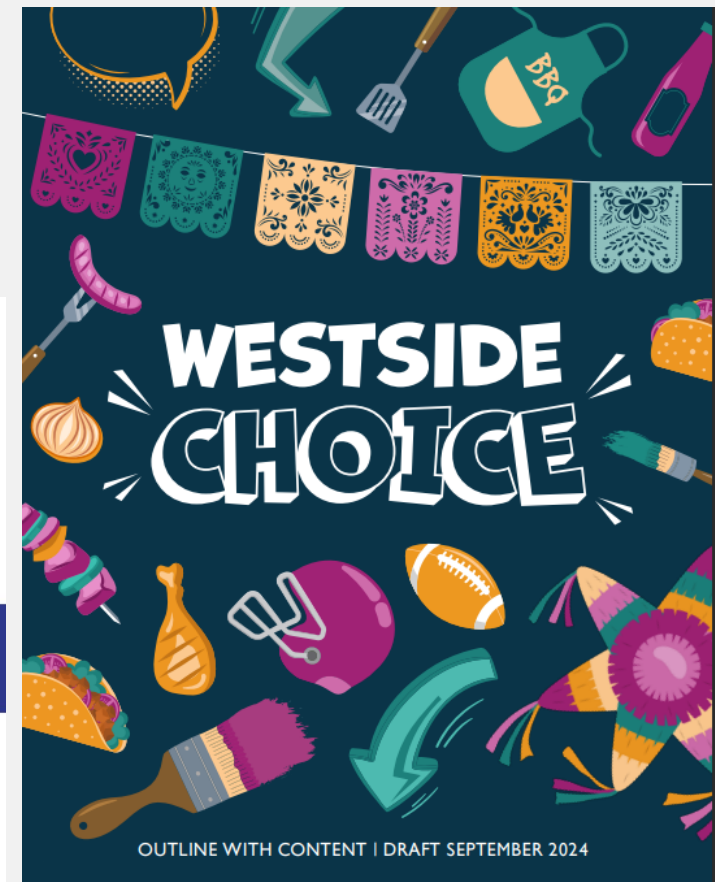
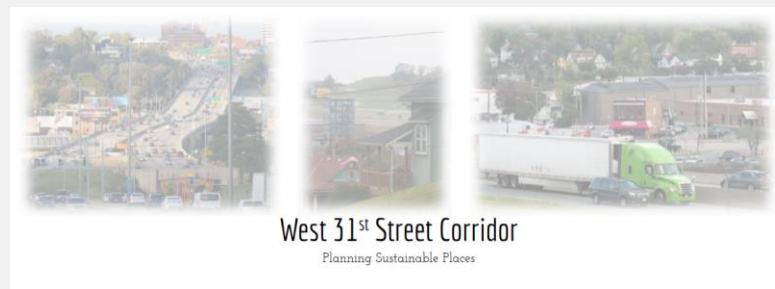
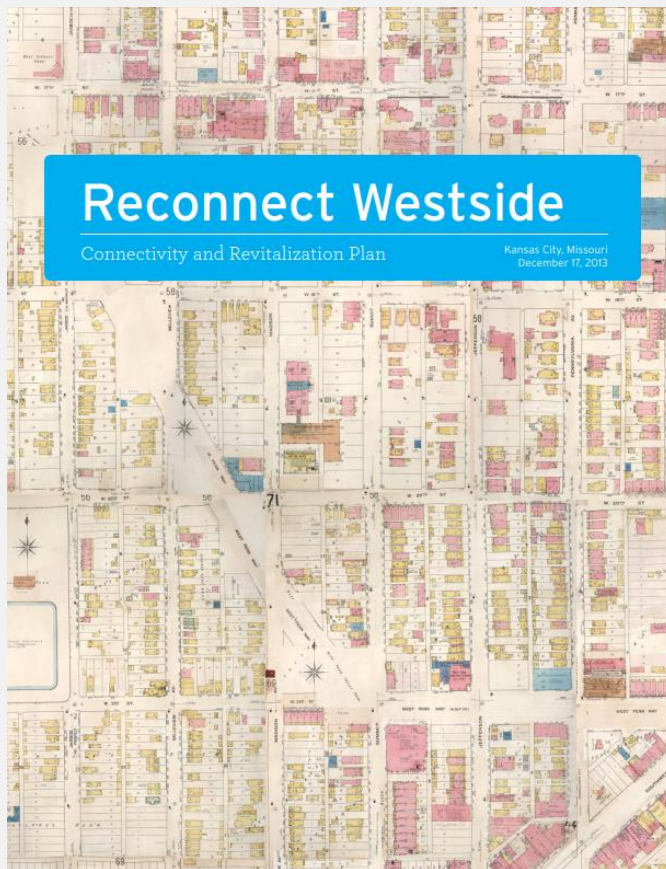
- Major Streetscape / Roadway
- Parks and Public Spaces Improvements
- Minor Highway Improvements
- Utilities

## Long Term

8+ Years

- Major Highway Works

# Building on an Existing Foundation



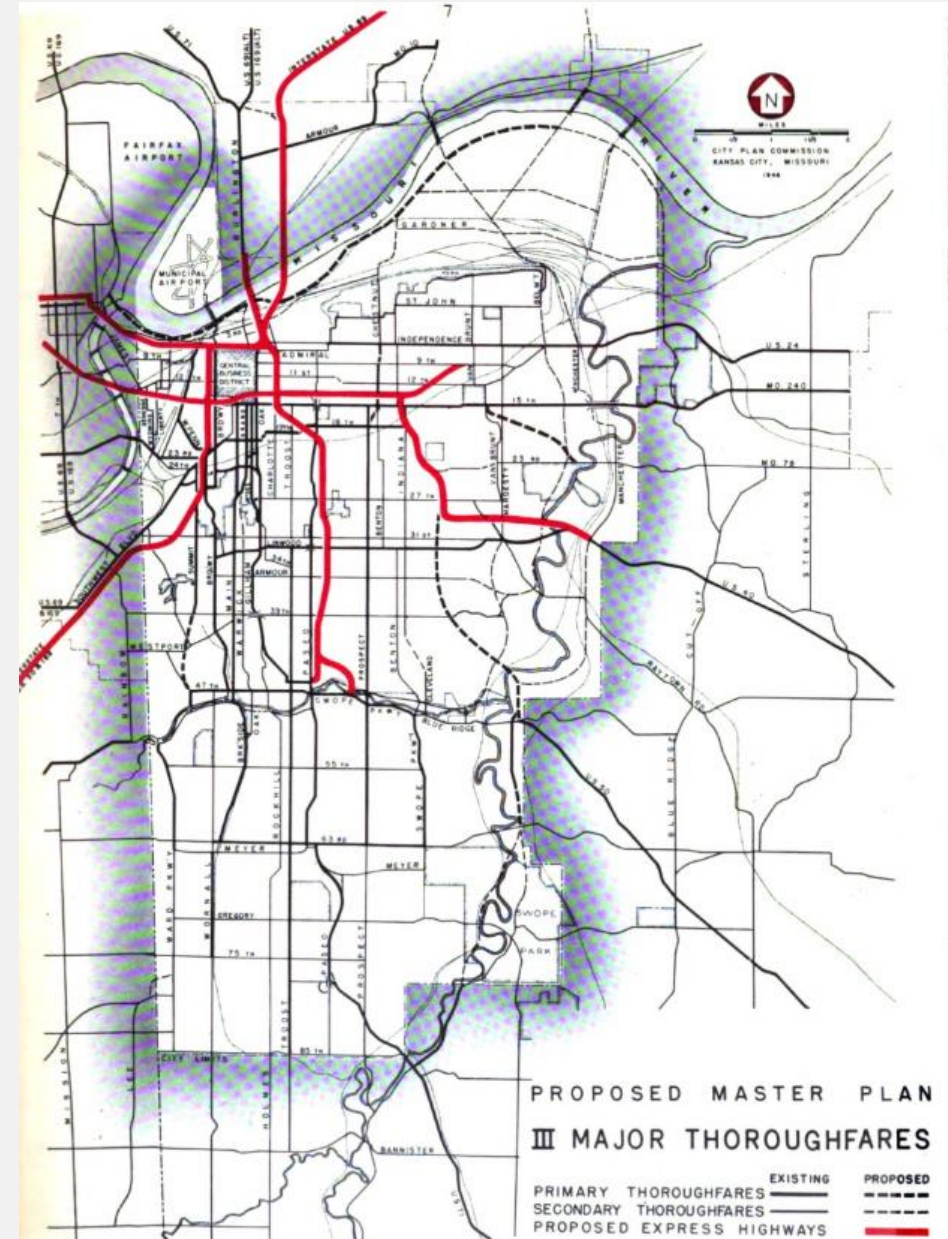
# Neighborhood History

- **1900-1940:** End of development with neighborhood stability, Railroad and Stockyards drive commerce, and Mexican immigration; a new ethnic enclave emerges
- **1940s-1970s:** Urban Renewal + Construction of Southwest Trafficway, I-35, and Public Housing
- **1970s-1990s:** Urban Decline + Suburbanization, Loss of Middle/High School, Local institutions fill void
- **1990s-2010s:** Urban revival begins, renewed interest in US downtowns and CBDs, Westside sees surge in investment and in-migration; I-670 Constructed
- **2010s – Present:** Urban revival continues, community develops planning lexicon, grapples with issues of housing, transportation, and urban economics

# 1947 Master Plan

But there is a second reason why it is desirable to divide the city's area of homes into sections. It is common experience that the maximum long-range residential values can be secured when areas of homes with a high degree of similarity are segregated from those of other characteristics. For example, it is not desirable for an investor to construct a \$20,000 home in a district of \$5,000 houses. For the same reason several \$5,000 houses in a residential area of \$20,000 homes lowers the values of homes in that area. And there is a social parallel to this homogeneity of income principle. An area of homes whose occupants have similar educational, social, religious, and employment bases is more desirable from a stability and residential value standpoint than is one composed of families with heterogeneous interests.

In order that trafficways feeding into the city's residential areas could be placed in corridors between districts of homes, and public buildings and shopping centers located to serve and not damage these districts, it was essential that development of the Master Plan start with a determination of these



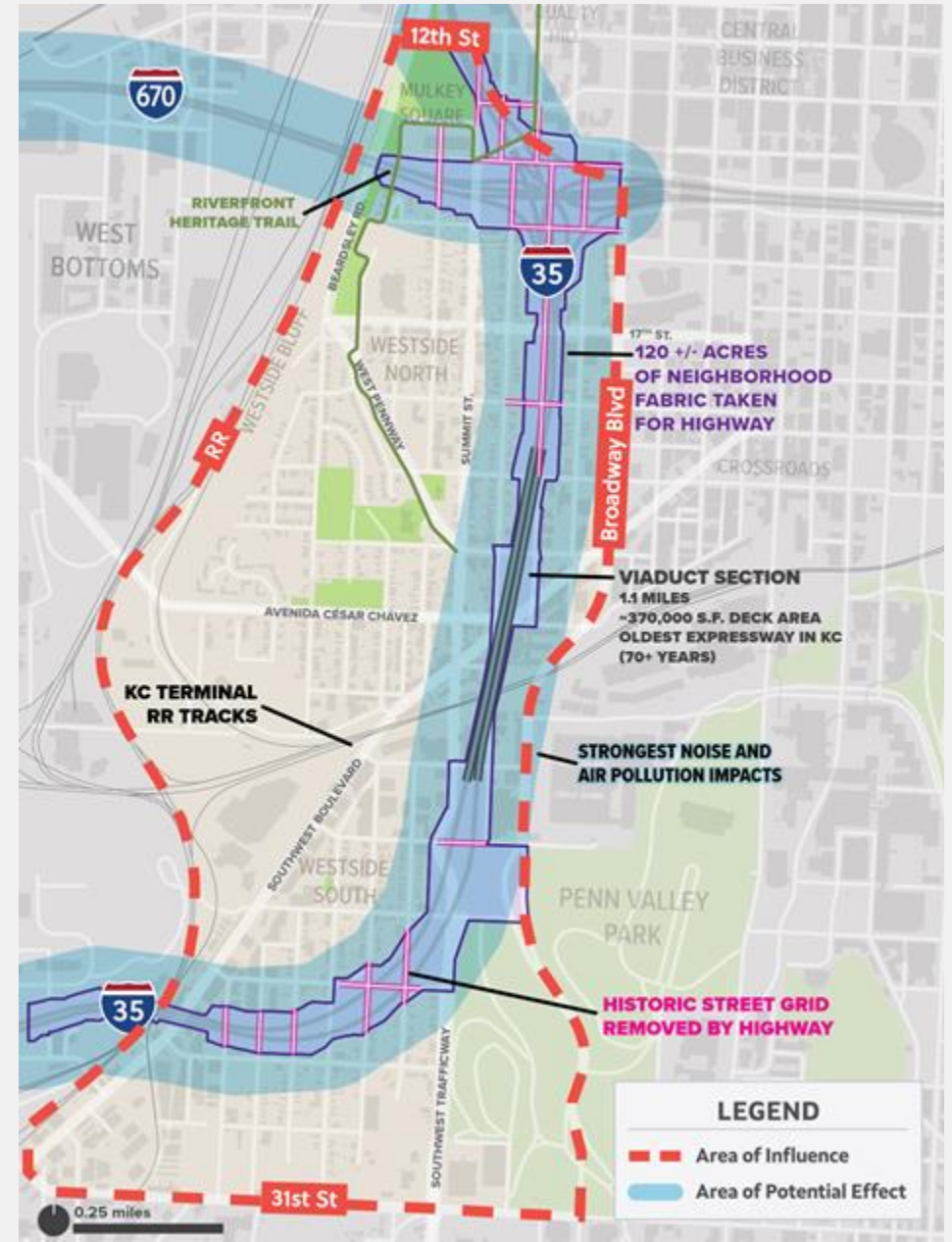
# Highway Construction

- Viaduct built in 1948 alongside Southwest Trafficway
- 1956 Federal Aid Highway Act
- I-35 built in the 1960s-1970s
- NEPA (environmental protections) enacted in 1969
- I-670 opened to traffic in 1990



# Impacts of Highway

- Displacement of residents
- Pollution
  - » Air Pollution
  - » Noise Pollution
  - » Light Pollution
- Negatively affects health of residents
- Bisects Westside
- Limits access and mobility
- Visually unattractive
- Separates Westside from the city

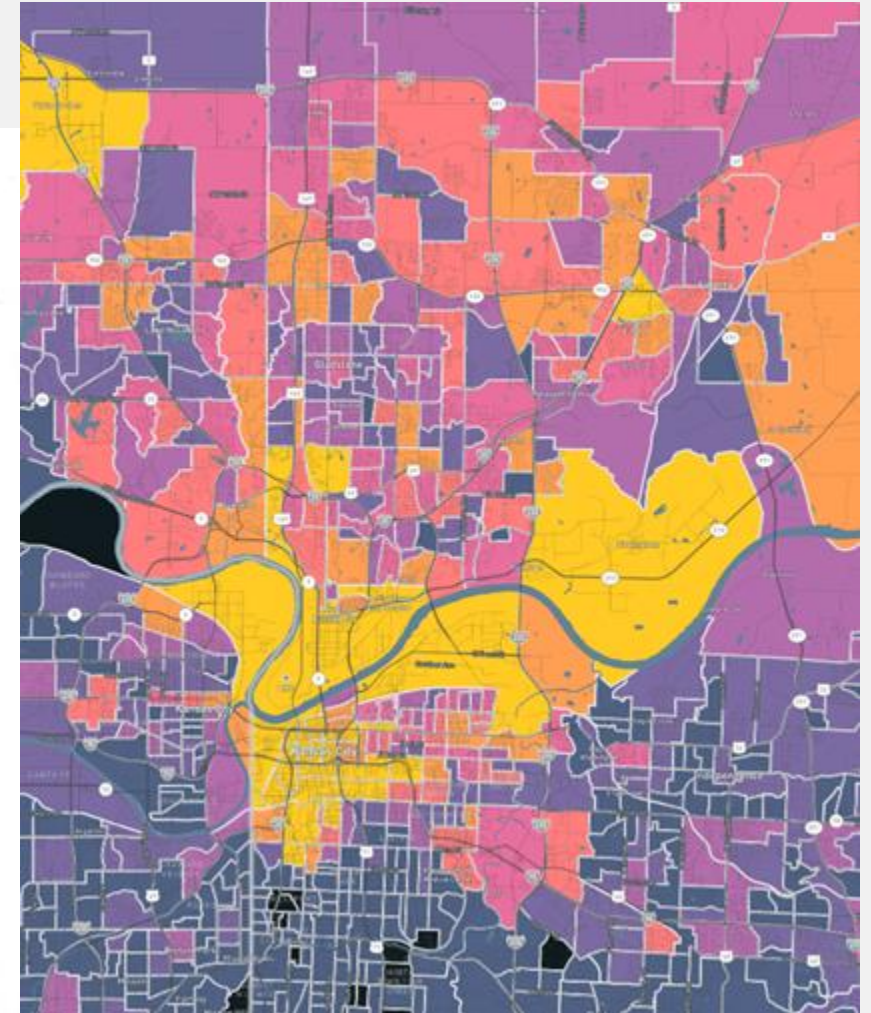
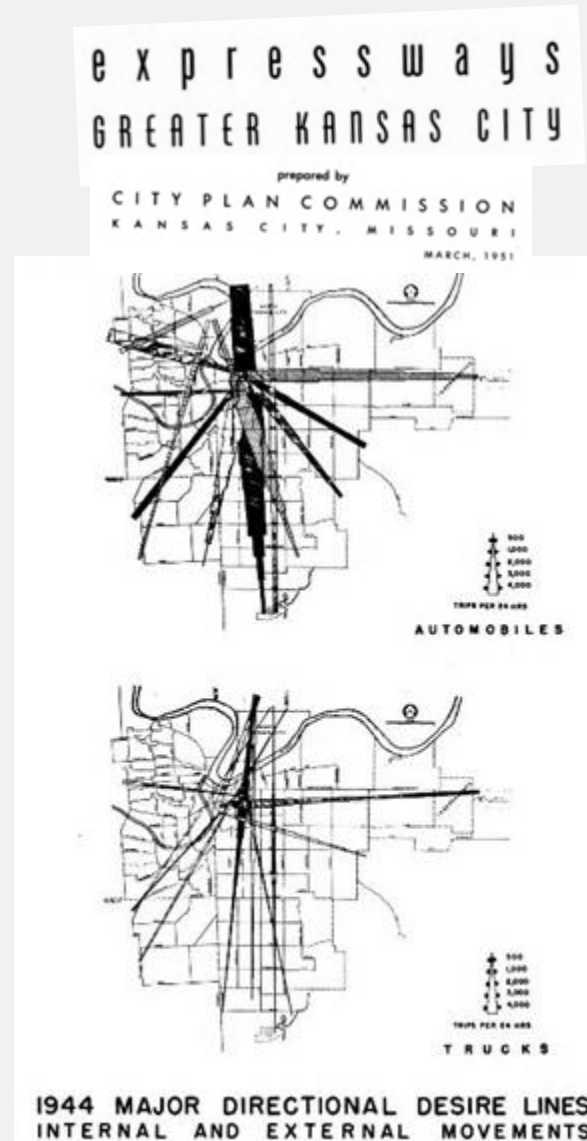




# What We Know So Far

# Regional Mobility Trends

- Historic highway system planned for monocentric (downtown) mobility
- Today only **25-30%** of traffic on I-35 North is headed to the Greater Downtown Area

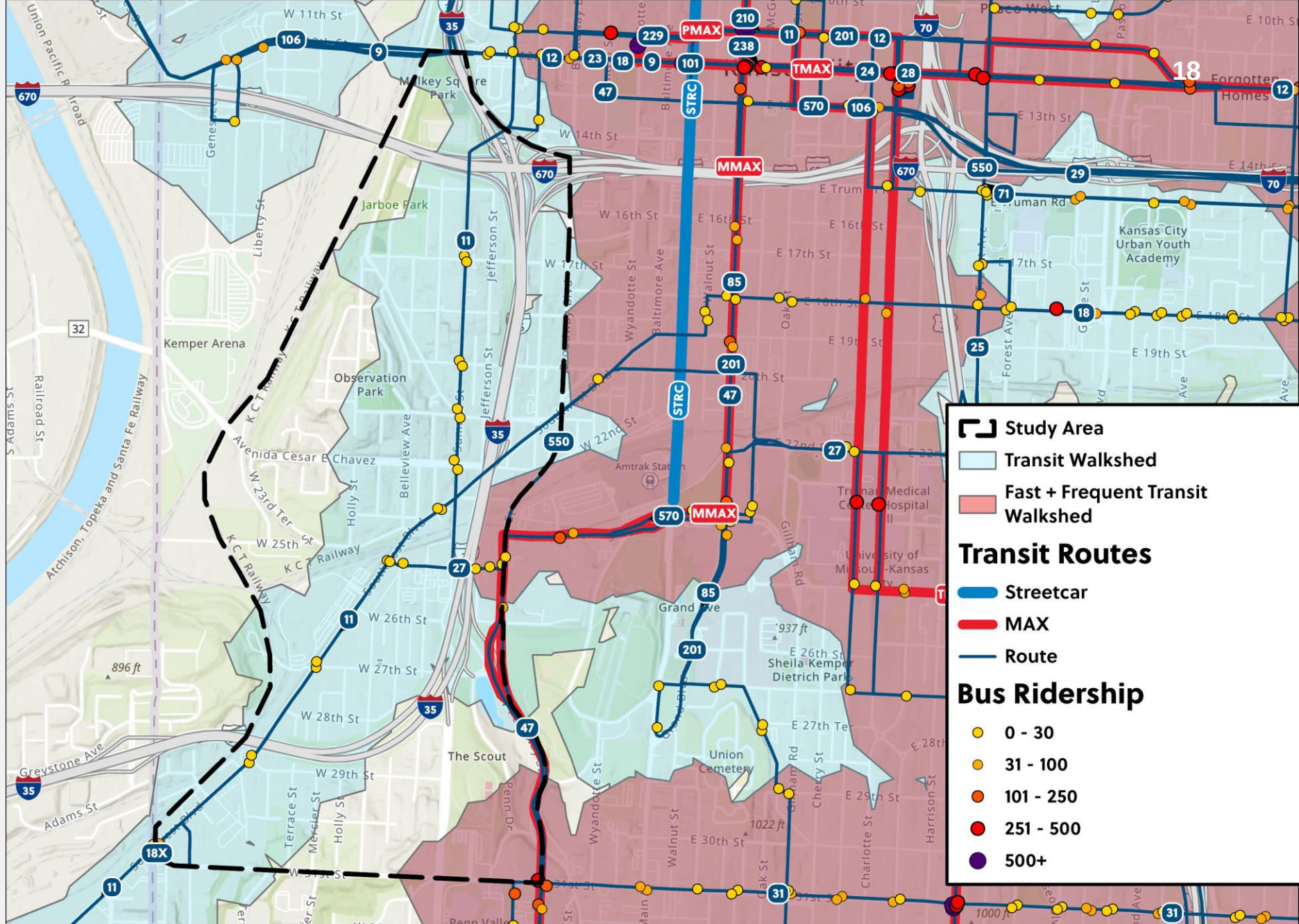




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# Transit

- Existing Routes: **11, 27, and 18X**
- Limited Access to Fast and Frequent Transit



**Transit Access and Ridership**



0

0.25

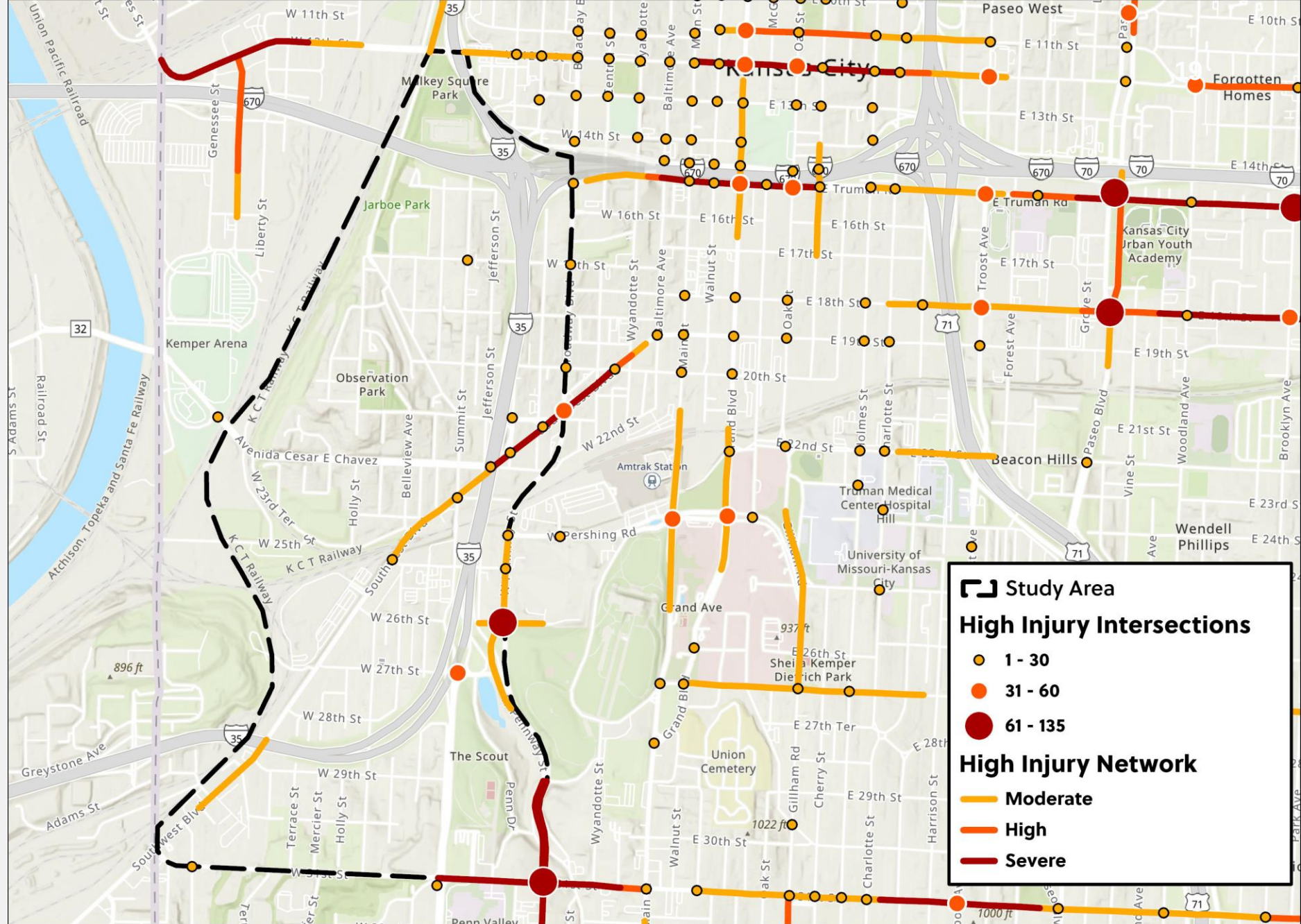
0.5 Miles



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# High Injury Network + Intersections

- Southwest Blvd
- Broadway Blvd
- 31<sup>st</sup> Street
- 26<sup>th</sup> + Broadway
- 31<sup>st</sup> and Broadway
- 27<sup>th</sup> and Summit
- Southwest and Broadway



**High Injury Network**



0

0.25

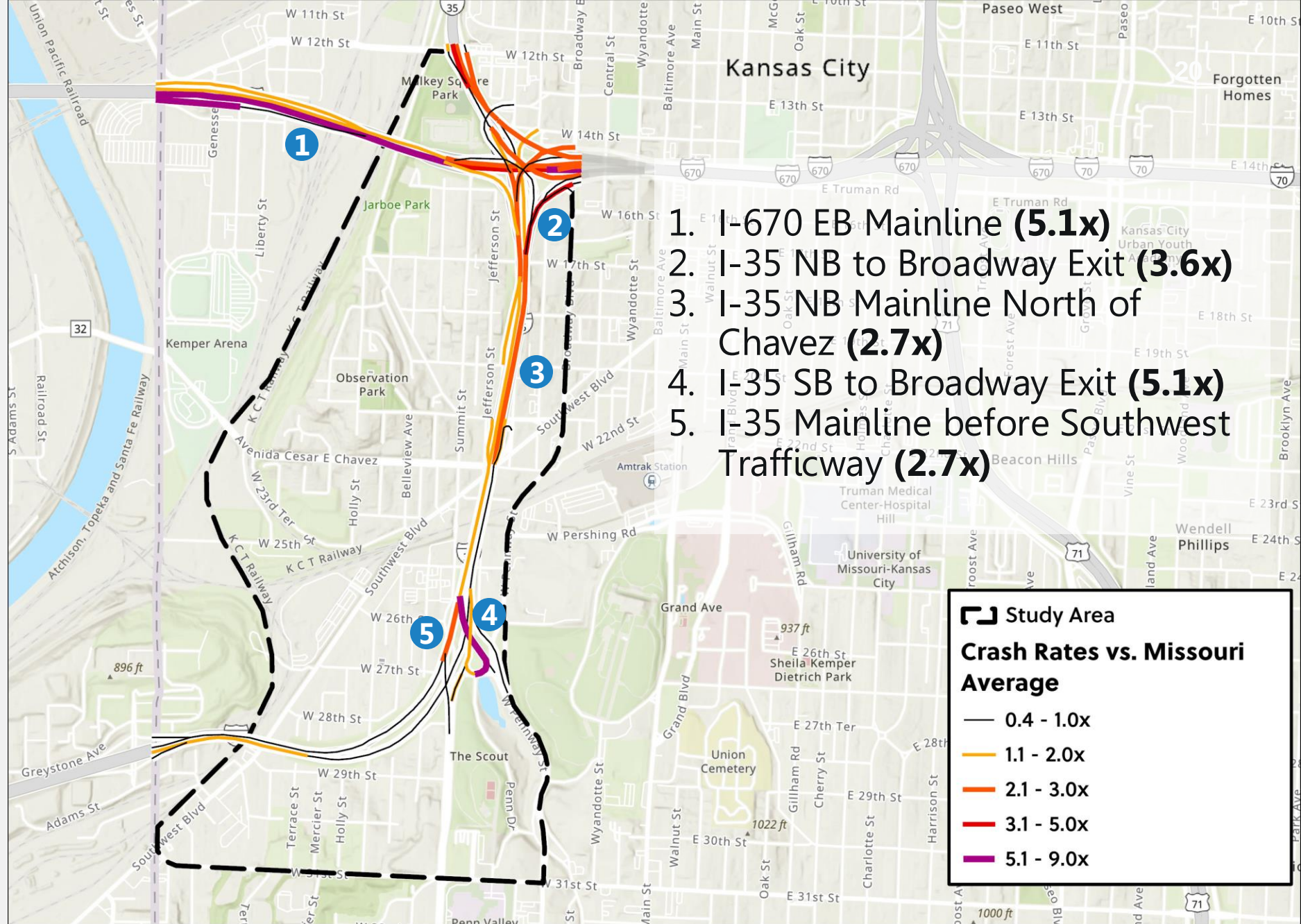
0.5 Miles



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# High Crash Highway Segments

Yellow, Orange, Red, and Purple  
Segments have  
**higher than  
average crash rates**  
compared to the  
State of Missouri



**Highway Crash Rates**



0.25

0.5 Miles



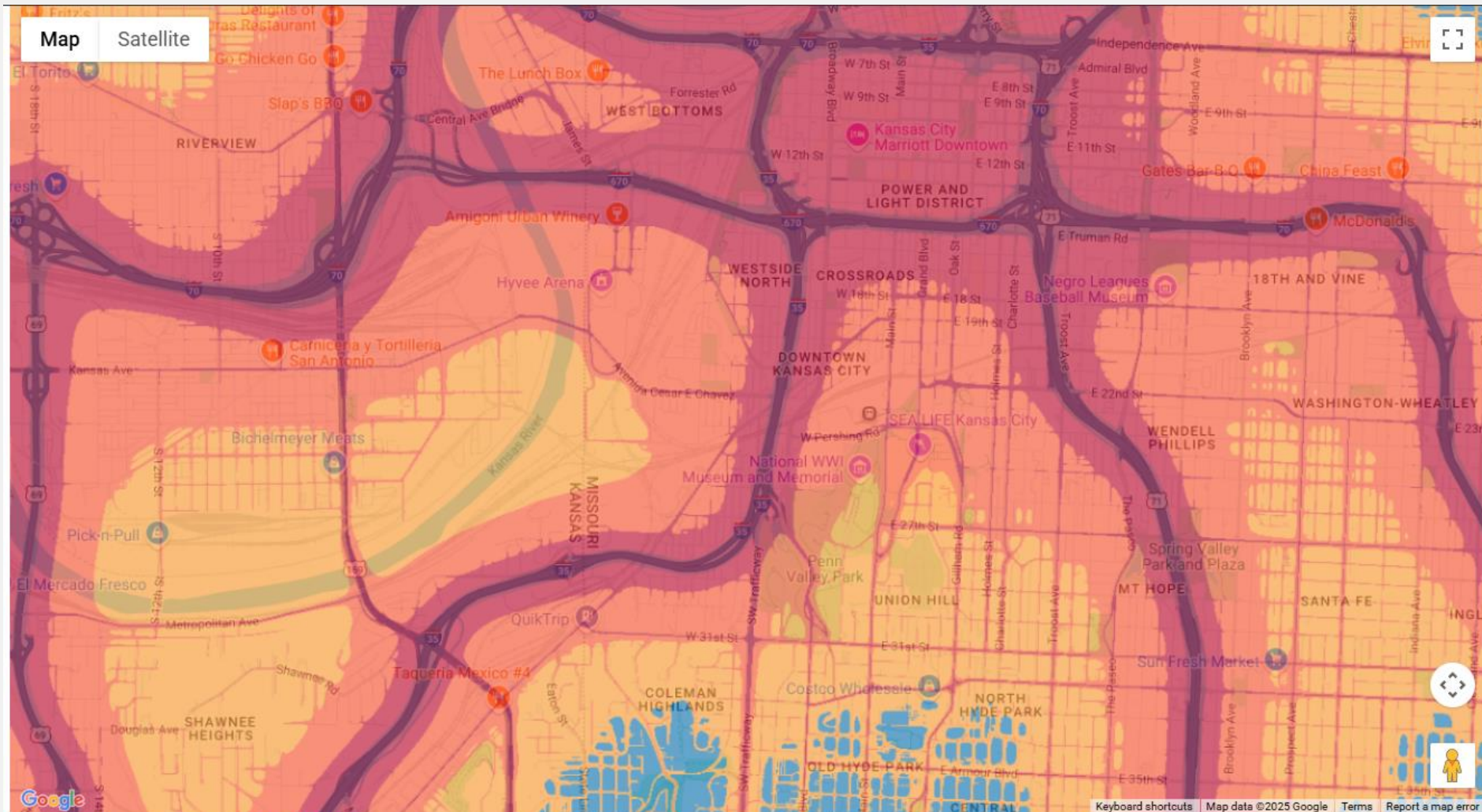
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# Highway/ Road Noise

Data Source: Tether Data (Modeled)



Contains information from [OpenStreetMap](#)

Loudest

Medium Noise

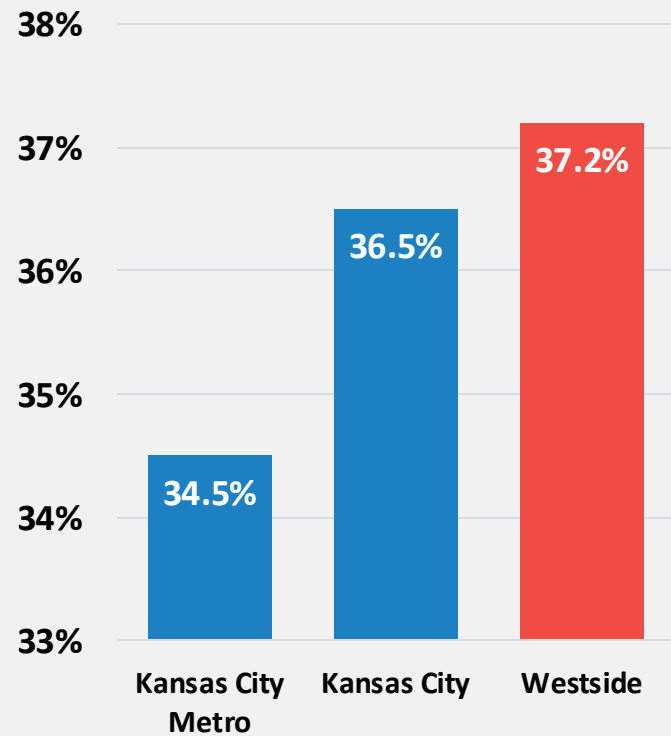
Low Noise

Quiet

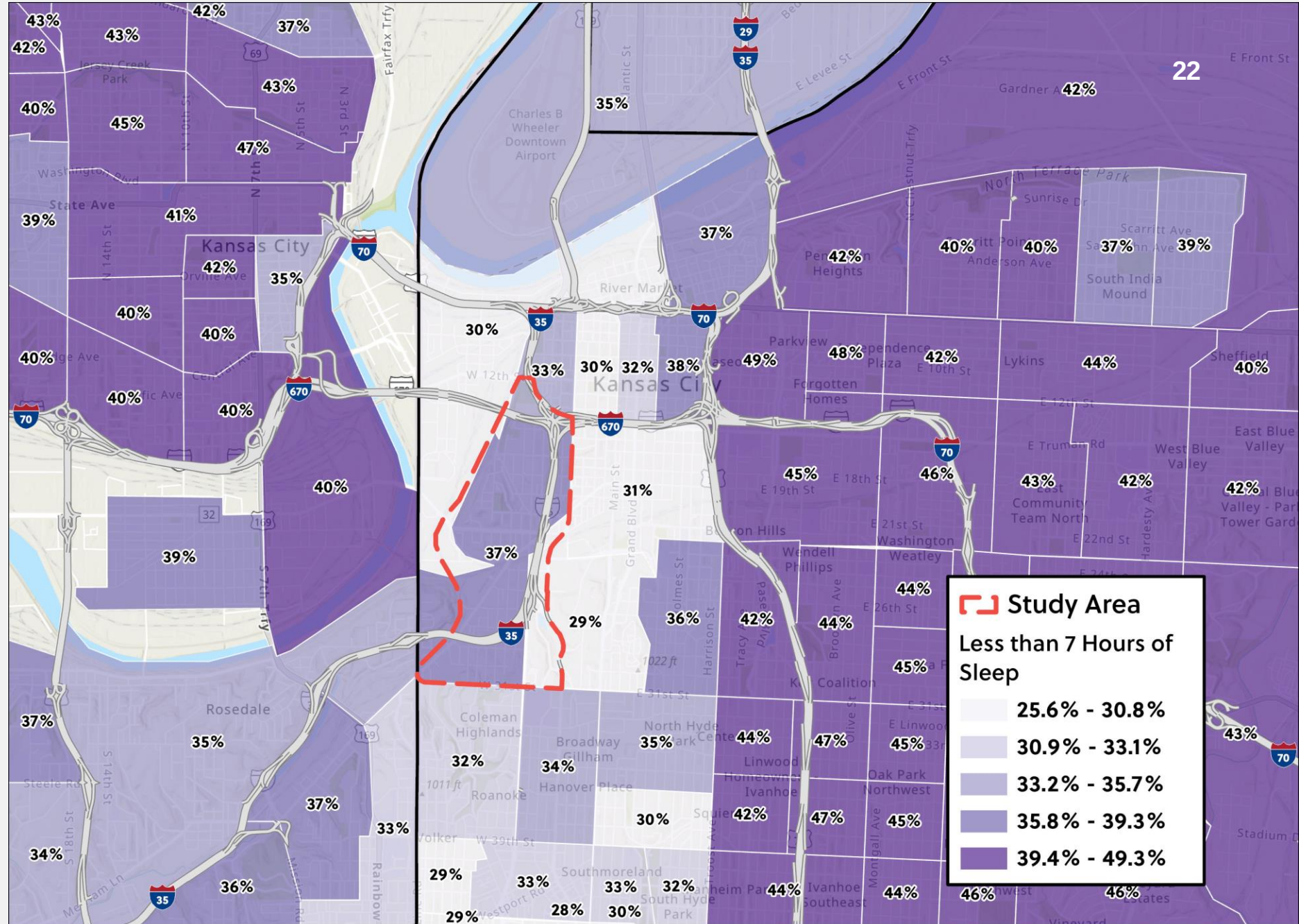


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## Less than 7 Hours of Sleep



Data Source: CDC PLACES



Less than 7 Hours of Sleep



0

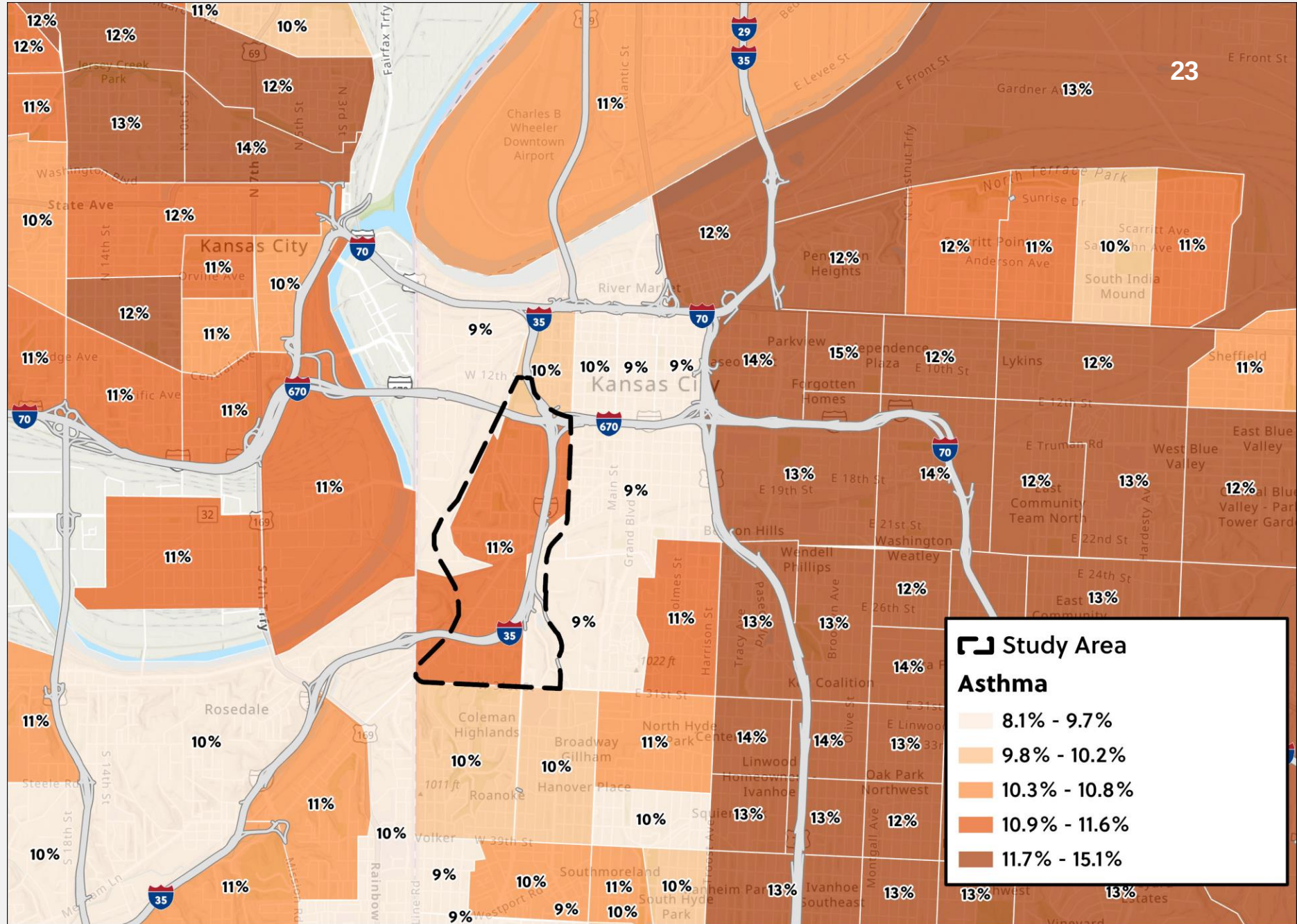
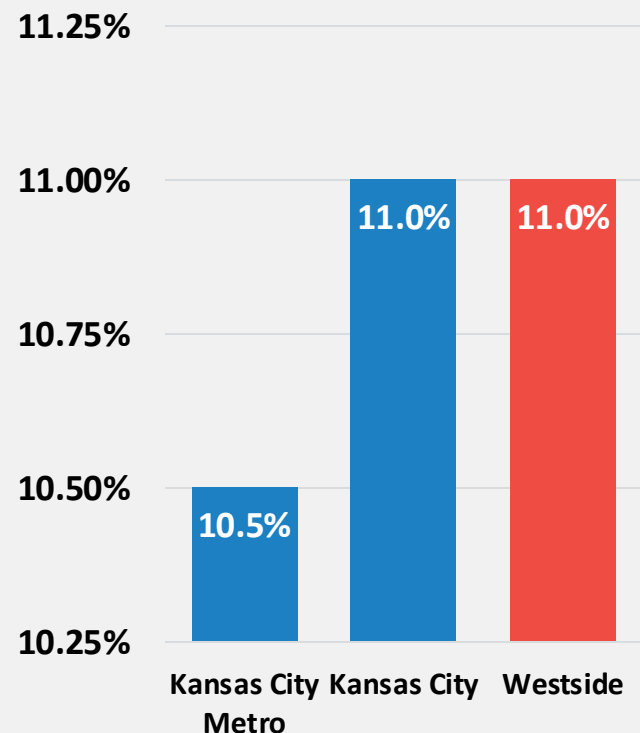
0.5

1 Miles

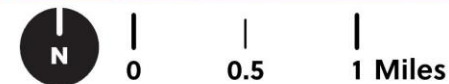


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# Asthma



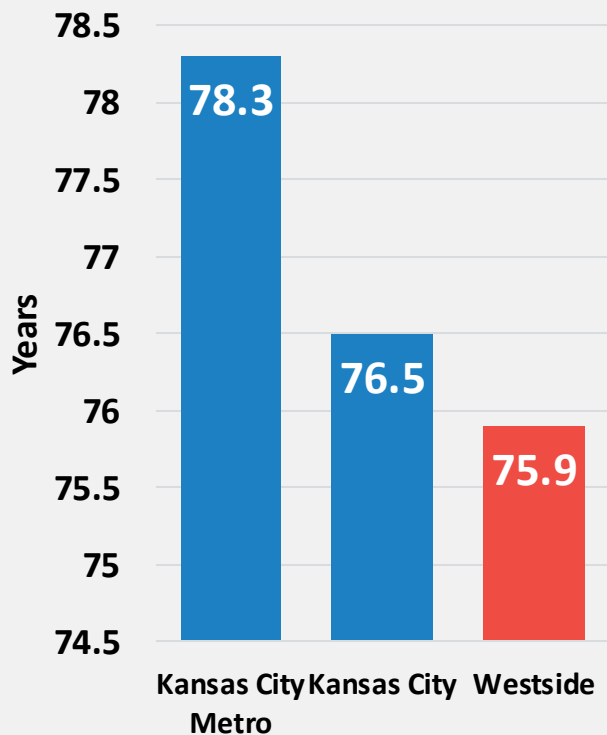
## Asthma Among Adults



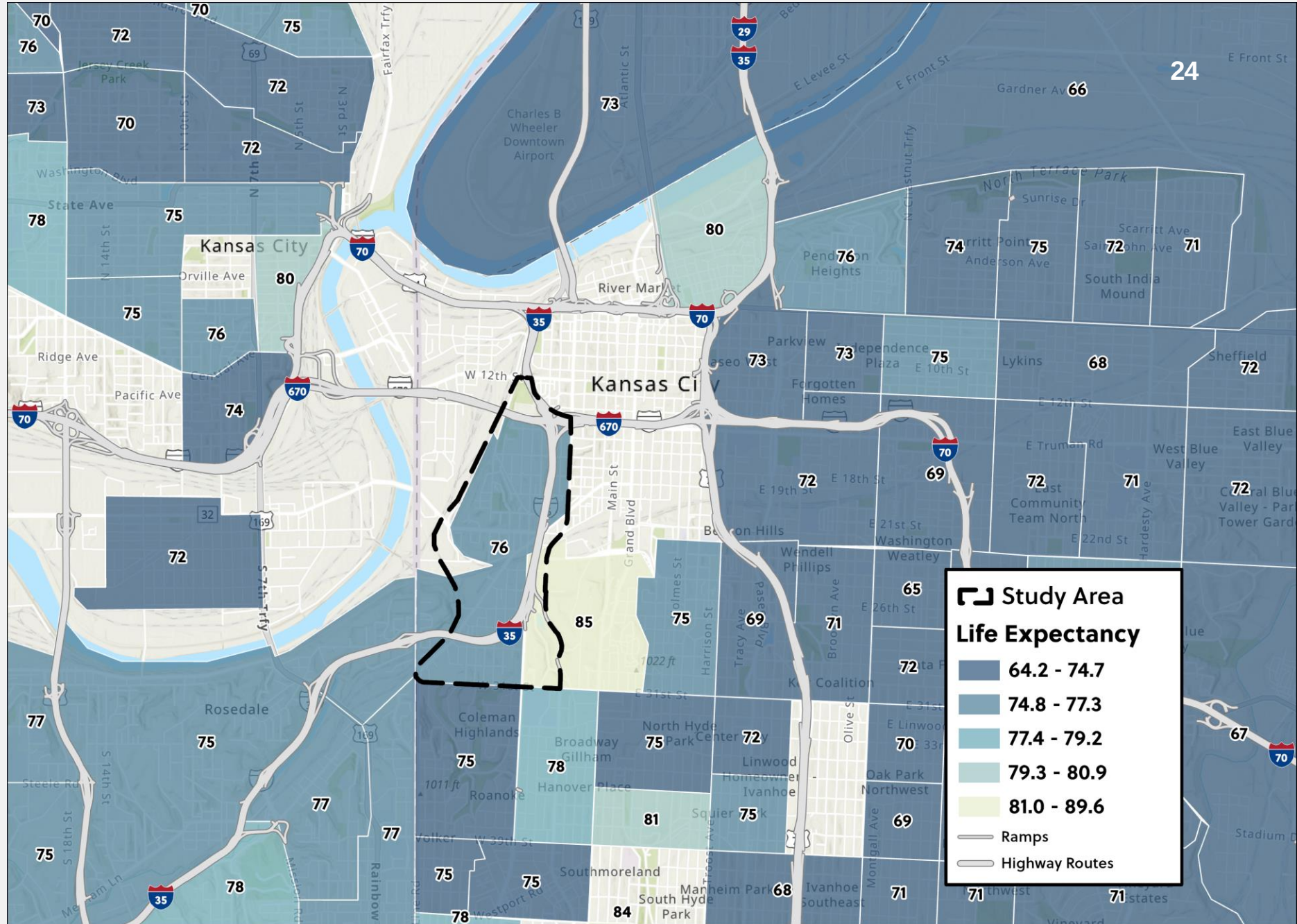


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# Life Expectancy



Data Source: CDC



**Life Expectancy**



0

0.5

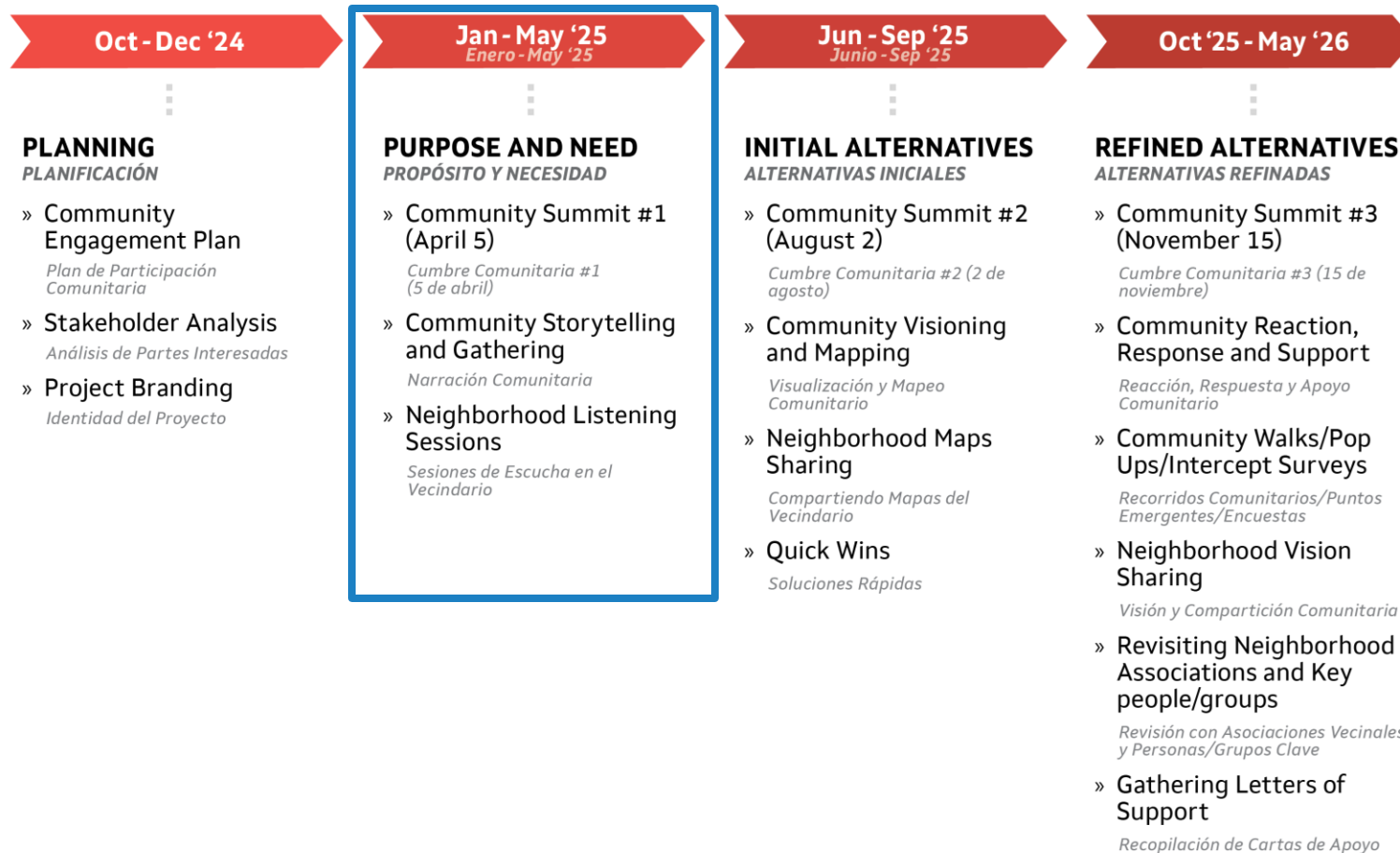
1 Miles



# Moving Forward Together



# Project Schedule



# Purpose and Need: We Need Your Feedback!

- Improve **Transportation Choices** for Westside Residents
- Improve **Transportation Safety** in the Westside
- Improve **Access to the Westside for Visitors or Businesses** (transit, parking, etc.)
- **Reduce Barriers** Created by the Transportation System
- **Reduce** the Impact of Vehicle-Related **Noise, Air, and Light Pollution**
- Improve the **Health** of Westside Residents
- Provide **More Housing** Choices and Affordable/Attainable Options
- Improve **Parks, Public Spaces, and Streetscape** Amenities
- Improve **I-35 Reliability** or Traffic Flow
- Other Priorities?

# Opportunities

- Reconnect Westside to the city
- Beautification
- Activate Public Space
- Green space
- Reduce pollution
- Environmental quality
- Improve health outcomes



Melissa Medrano, a dancer from Los Bailadores de Kansas City, performs a traditional folklórico dance as at First Fridays Under the Bridge in August.

## KC highway underpass teems with Latino life on First Fridays

BY J.M. BANKS  
jbanks@kcstar.com

First Fridays Under the Bridge greets your senses with an explosion of Hispanic culture, all at once.

The scent of street tacos fills the air as dancers adorned in colorful dresses prepare for a performance. Latin music blasts from the DJ booth as patrons

talk excitedly, walking through the rows of vendors lining the pillars below the Interstate 35 bridge. The overpass creates a massive canopy protecting them from the harsh summer sun.

The vendors are the main event, and they sell everything: clothing, sandals, bags, ceramic goods, jewelry and face painting, to name just a few. Every First Friday from April to Sep-



"Last year we wanted this community to be a part of what's taking place socially and economically across the Crossroads," says Pedro Zamora, executive director for Hispanic Economic Development Corp.

tember, the site is home to a revolving door of local food trucks, many of them newly started ventures, still working to build a base and happy to

share their tacos, burgers, burritos, quesadillas, tortillas and more with new customers.

SEE EVENT, 5A



# Your Input Is Essential

# A People First Approach to Engagement

- Going to the community
- Dispelling deep roots of distrust
- Re-imaging the corridor via engagement, collaboration and empowerment
- Moving at the speed of trust
- Laying the groundwork for the future

# Valuable Engagement and Communications Tools

- Project website and office
- Community Ambassadors
- Community Advisory Group
- Neighborhood listening sessions
- Key person interviews
- Community Summits
- Pop-up engagement and surveys
- City Councilperson check-ins
- Project broadcasting
- Video series

## Westside Engagement Map

Open

This Engagement Map allows Westside audiences to share their issues and feedback about land use, green space, housing, economic development, public health, education, traffic safety, and other issues. This information will help to inform the ongoing work of the Reconnecting the Westside project.

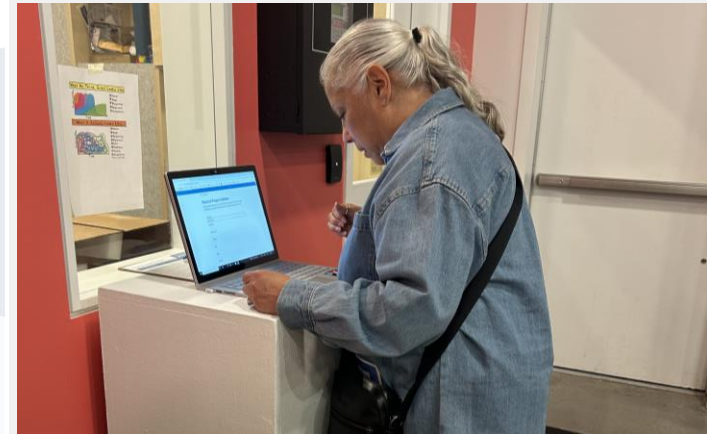
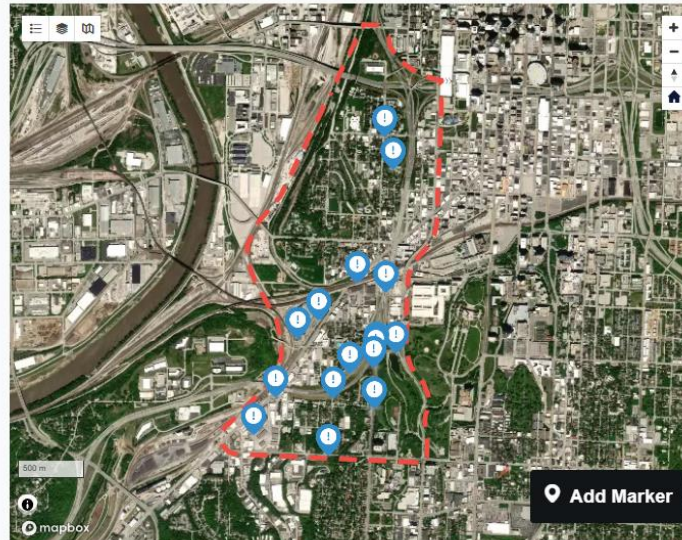
Zoom in and navigate to a location on the map to share your issue or feedback. Click Add Marker to drop your pin in the correct category to indicate where you would like to share your issue or idea. You can also upload photos.

Click the Information (i) icon just below to learn more about the marker categories.

Click the Question Mark (?) icon just below to learn more about how to interact with this Engagement Map.

17 contributions so far

Enter an address





# Upcoming Community Meetings & Opportunities for Feedback

- Community Summit #1 – April 5th at Boulevard Brewing Company from 9:30–11:30am (**Today!**)
- Multiple First Friday events and community festivals – e.g., Mattie Rhodes First Friday, Cinco de Mayo fiestas, Guadalupe Center events
- Neighborhood Association Meetings, local business coalition meetings, and community listening sessions.
- Online mapping tool – [reconnectwestside.com](https://reconnectwestside.com)



# Engagement Stations

- Project Overview
- Purpose and Need
- History and Background
- Storytelling
- Talk to 311
- Children's Corner



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