

**HEART**  
OF THE  
**CITY**  
AREA PLAN

**Public Realm  
Workshop**

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Presented By:

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# Issues

- Explore strategies to enhance “public spaces”, which account for 30% of the area.
- Reinforce and enhance area and neighborhood identity.
- Identify districts with special or unique character and develop strategies to protect/enhance.
- Reinforce the plan area’s edges and important gateways.
- Enhance image streets and public spaces.
- Examine ways to reprogram existing parks and open spaces.

# Public Realm Goal

***Goal: Create an attractive public realm which enhances area identity, supports a wide variety of activities and reinforces connections between neighborhoods.***

# Public Realm Goal and Big Ideas

## **Big Ideas/Guiding Principles –**

- **Connect Neighborhoods and Activity Centers**
  - **Create Great Streets and Boulevards**
  - **Focus streetscape enhancements and infill development along key image corridors**
  - **Provide connections across barriers**

# Public Realm Goal and Big Ideas

## **Big Ideas/Guiding Principles –**

- **Activate the Public Realm**
  - **Design and program public spaces to accommodate a variety of activities and users.**
  - **Encourage public spaces in new development, particularly in mixed use centers.**
  - **Create a new generation of urban amenities**
  - **Recognize culture as commerce**
  - **Program parks to meet neighborhood needs.**

# Public Realm Goal and Big Ideas

## **Big Ideas/Guiding Principles –**

- **Reinforce and Enhance Area Appearance and Identity**
  - Improve appearance of key “Image” streets.
  - Create a hierarchy of gateways
  - Create a visually contiguous roadway system through design that respects surrounding land uses.
  - Remove and/or reduce visual clutter.
  - Enhance the individual character of area districts and neighborhoods.
  - Look for opportunities to soften “edges”
  - Coordinate improvements with revitalization efforts

# Databook Issues

- Identify strategies which maximize the benefits of regional roadways. Identify potential development opportunities at key highway access points.
- Explore strategies to improve Walkability, particularly in "high need" areas.
- Plan for a coordinated system of on and off street bike routes and multi-use trails (coordinate with the *Trails KC Plan*).
  - Identify opportunities to connect neighborhoods to the Trails KC system.
- Explore strategies to improve street connections and access where needed.
- Examine the street network, identify and prioritize needed improvements and explore ways to implement planned street improvements and roadway projects.
- Examine existing bus service and examine implications of new or expanded bus rapid transit (MAX) service.

# Preliminary Analysis

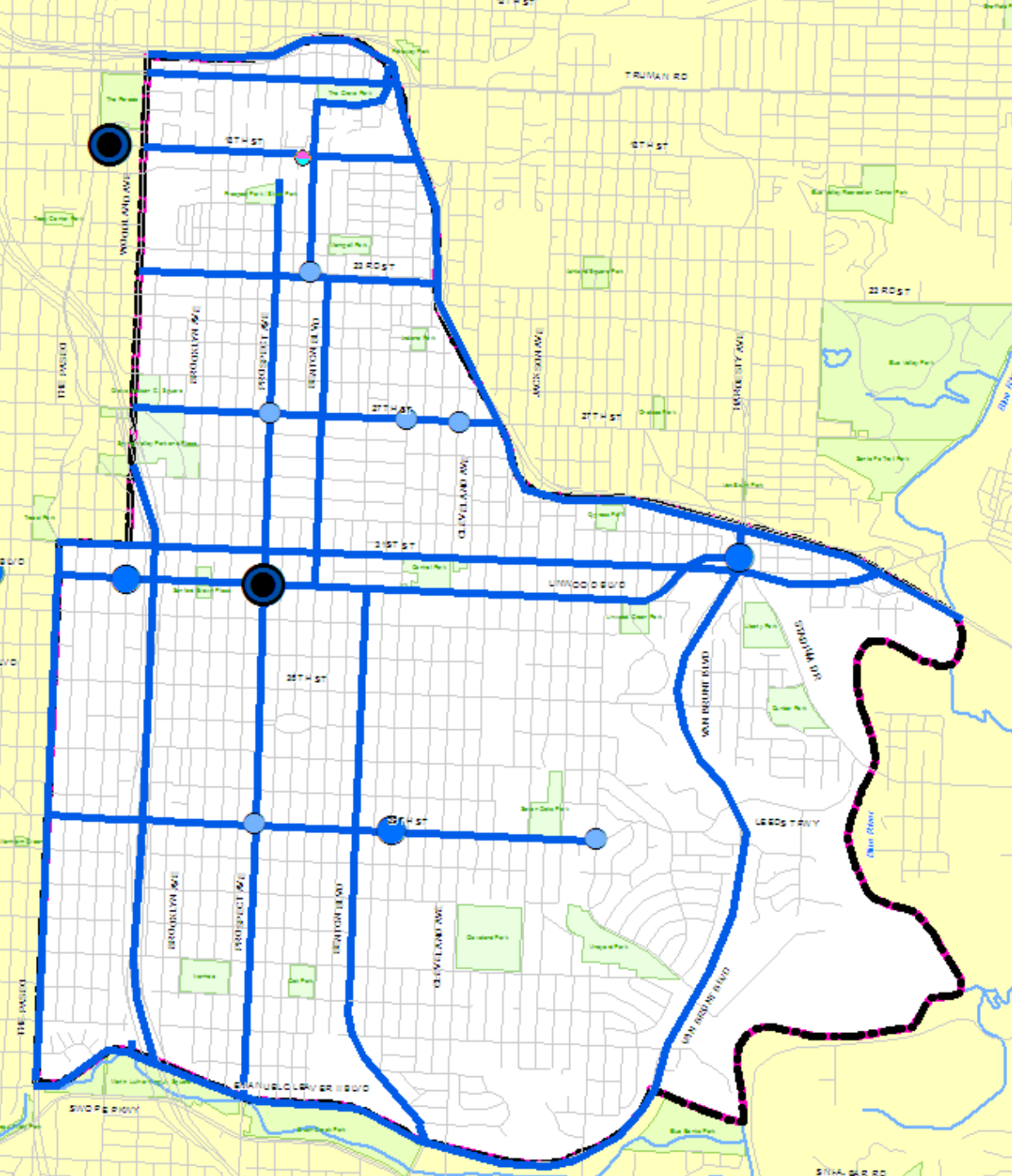
- Districts
- Image Streets/Great Streets
- Gateways
- Activity Centers
- Edges/Barriers
- Key Opportunities

# Districts

- Need to identify districts with unique character
  - Prospect and 31<sup>st</sup>/Linwood
  - Brush Creek Corridor
  - Other??
- Need to be distinct.



# Image Streets (Great Streets)



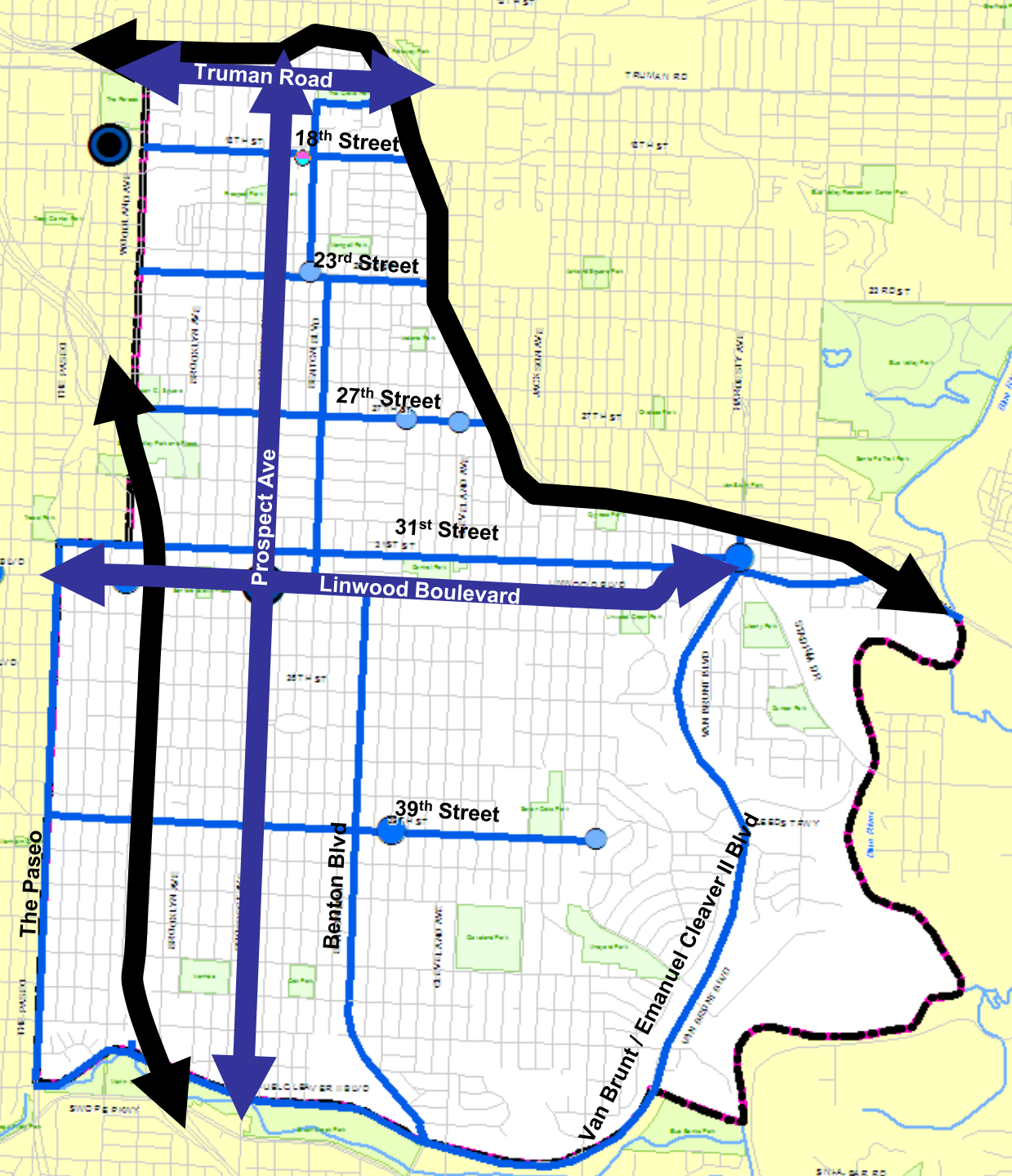
— Image Streets

# Image Streets (Great Streets)




↔ Highway  
Corridors

— Image Streets

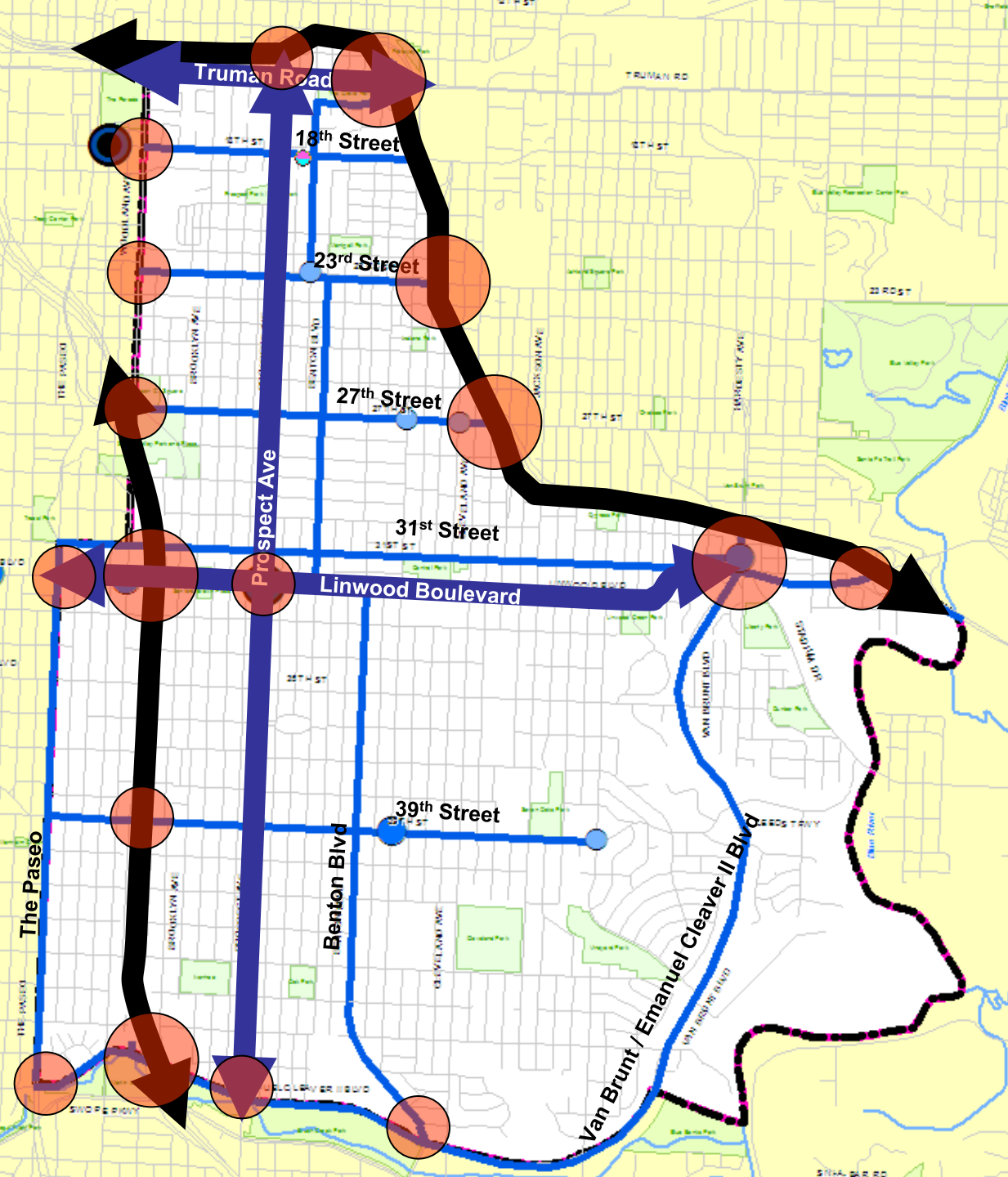




# Image Streets (Great Streets)

-  Highway Corridors
-  Primary Image Streets
-  Image Streets

# Image Streets and Gateways



↔ Highway Corridor

↔ Primary Image Street

— Image Street

○ Major Gateway

○ Minor Gateway

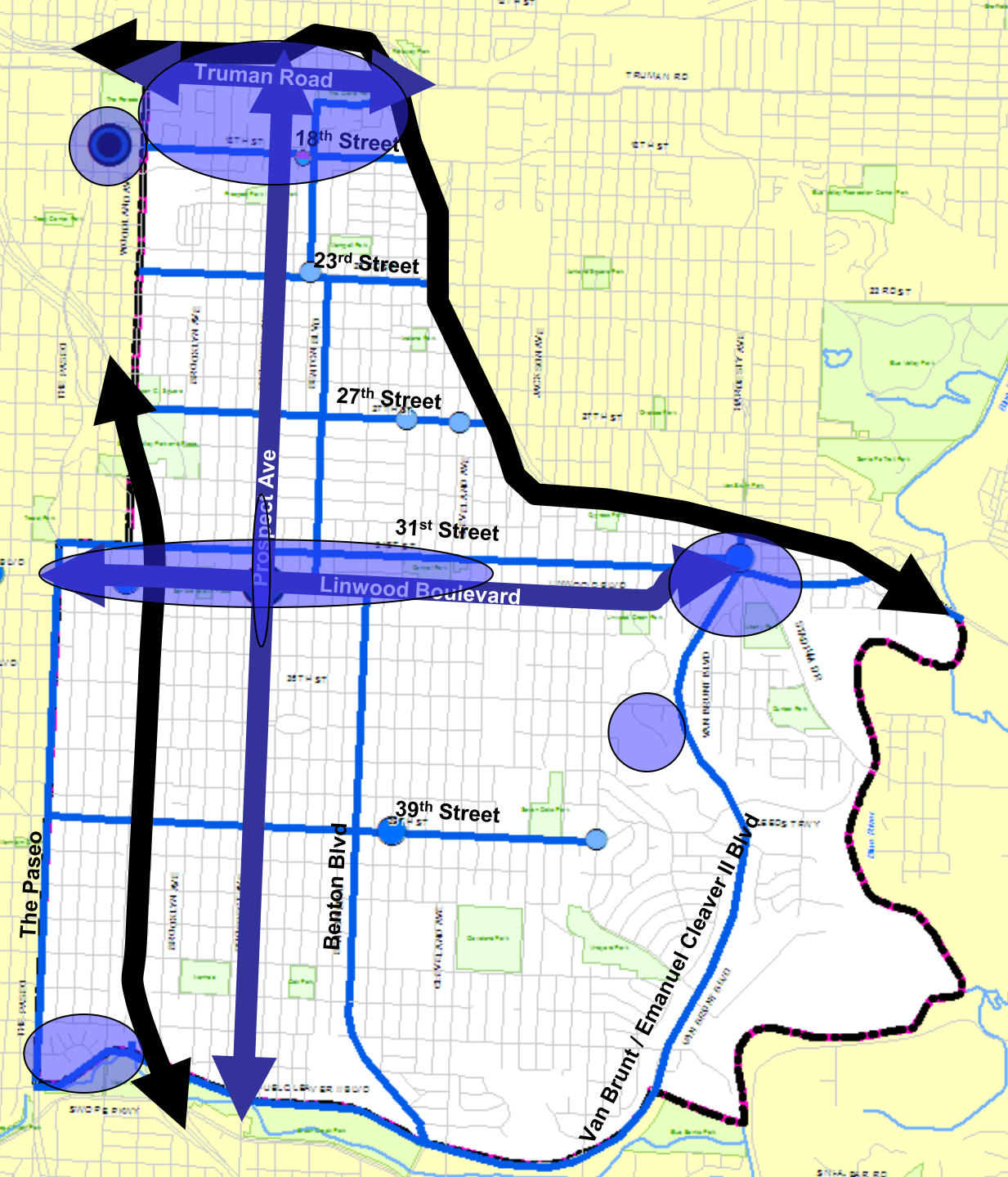
# Image Streets, Gateways & Activity Centers

 Highway Corridor

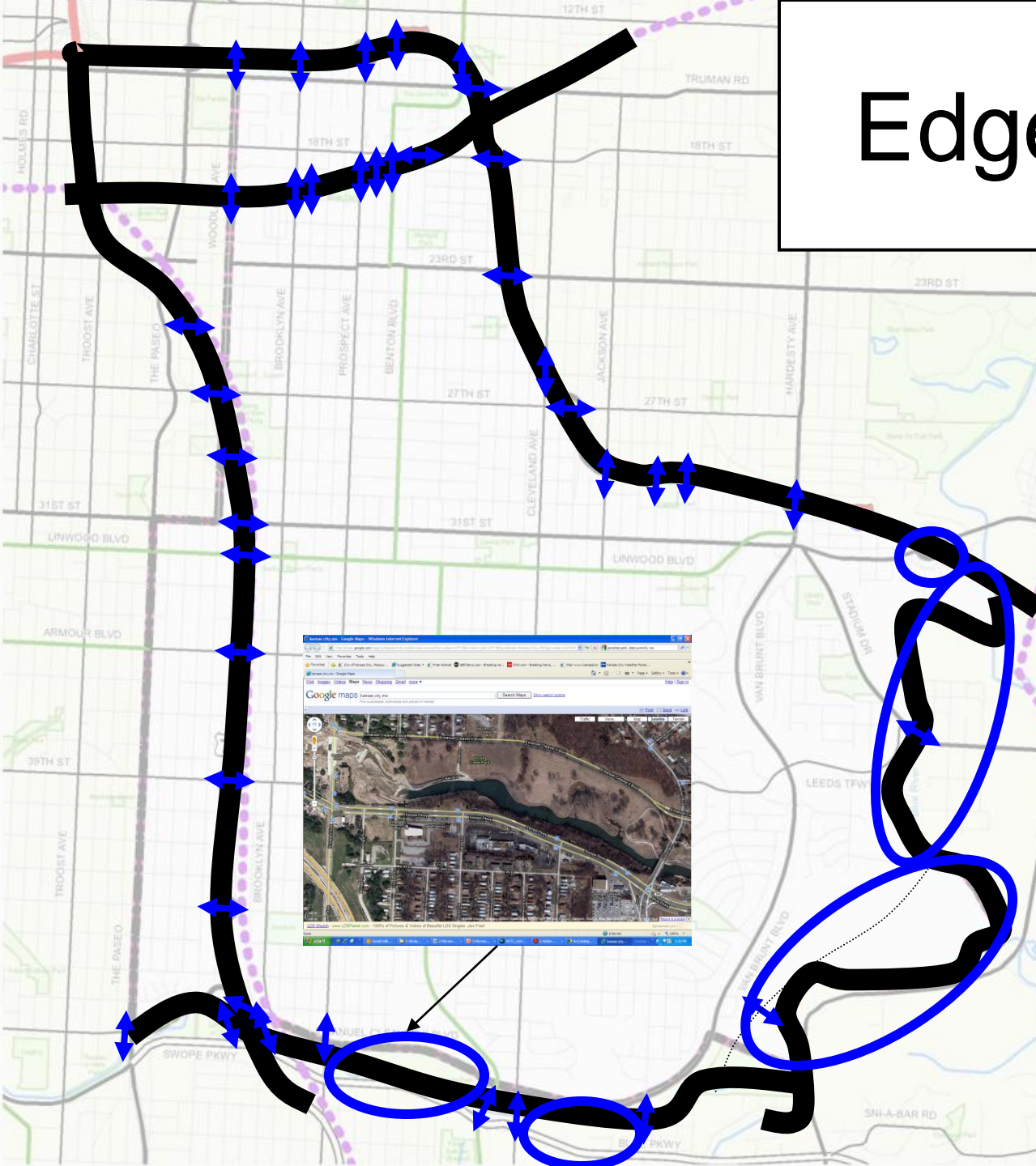
 Primary Image Street

 Image Street

 Major Activity Center



# Edges/Barriers



- Transportation issue as well as Public Realm.
- Need to ensure physical connections between neighborhoods.
- Look for opportunities to soften Edges/Barriers.
- Look for opportunities for aesthetic enhancements on highway over/underpasses.



# Remaining Issues

- Add Parks Master Plan recommendations
- Other?

# Questions and Discussion