

**ADA Curb Ramp & Sidewalk  
Improvement Program**

***Public Outreach Assistance &  
ADA Compliance Programming Tasks***

**Prepared for  
Unified Government**

**GBA PROJECT NO. 12332**

A p r i l 4 , 2 0 1 1

# **ADA Curb Ramp and Sidewalk Improvement Program**

## **Submitted on April 4, 2011**

**Project:** Public Outreach Assistance and ADA Compliance Programming for the ADA Curb Ramp and Sidewalk Improvement Program

**Location:** Within the boundaries of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas

**Description:** GBA was contracted by the Unified Government to verify field conditions of existing curb ramp locations that need to be brought into compliance with ADA guidelines within a 10-year period following a judgment by the Department of Justice, dated April 5, 2010. Tasks included collection of field data, estimating of costs for repairs, prioritization and programming of locations to be improved by April 5, 2020, and completion of public outreach tasks in accordance with the Public Outreach Plan.

### **Contents of this Report**

This report contains documentations to support public outreach efforts and engineering analysis to complete the Public Outreach Plan and Items 45, 46, and 50 of the Department of Justice judgment for compliance with the ADA for Curb Ramps and Sidewalk Improvements.

#### **Phase I – Public Outreach Plan**

- Documentation of the Request Form for Curb Ramp Improvements
- Training Program for Incoming Requests
- Brochure for the ADA Curb Ramp and Sidewalk Improvement Program
- Public Meeting Attendance Report and Comments Received

#### **Phase II – ADA Compliance Programming (DOJ Agreement Items 45, 46, and 50)**

- Identification of intersections in need of compliance
- Identification of intersections in need of improvements for compliance
- Action Plan for Compliance

## Documentation of the Request Form for Curb Ramp Improvements

Following the judgment by the Department of Justice on April 5, 2010, the Unified Government formalized a program to receive request for improvements to sidewalk curb ramps to be brought into compliance within the next ten years. Made publicly available on the city's website, and in person at the office of Public Works, the intent of this program is to receive specific requests to be included with the prioritization of improvements. On-going requests received by Bill Blackwell, the program coordinator, will be evaluated along with the programming priorities and available funding.



### UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF WYANDOTTE COUNTY & KANSAS CITY, KANSAS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

ONE McDOWELL PLAZA      701 NORTH 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET, 66101      (913) 573-5400  
FAX (913) 573-5435

#### CURB RAMP REQUEST FORM ADA CURB RAMP IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas is dedicated to providing safe and accessible routes of travel in our community to people of varying abilities. You may use this form to request construction of new curb ramps or upgrades to existing ramps at specific intersections or crossings.

1. Where are curb ramps needed? Please list the names of the streets at the intersection, as well as specific corners (NE, SE, SW, NW) and directions of travel. Feel free to draw a sketch to help illustrate:

2. Would this ramp give you better access to any of the following (check all that apply):  
 public transportation       public facilities       governmental offices  
 educational facilities       recreational facilities       medical facilities  
 professional offices       stores and other commercial places

Please describe in more detail:

3. Are there any other benefits you would experience by having a curb ramp constructed or upgraded at this location?

4. Please provide your name, address, and phone number so that we may contact you.

You may submit the form by fax, mail, email or phone call to the UG's Curb Ramp Coordinator:

Bill Blackwell at [bblackwell@wycokck.org](mailto:bblackwell@wycokck.org)

(913) 573-5700 or fax 913-573-5727

Unified Government of WyCo/KCK, Department of Public Works  
701 North 7th Street, Room 712, Kansas City, KS 66101

*This form is used to gather data necessary for prioritizing locations to be upgraded. Priority will be given to locations that complete an accessible route for specific individuals in need or that give improved access to government offices and facilities, transportation, places of public accommodation, or employers. Implementation of requests hinges on project funding and feasibility. Other factors being equal, requests are evaluated on a first-come, first-served basis. Construction of or upgrades to curb ramps may be scheduled in conjunction with other street or sidewalk improvement projects. There is no guarantee that curb ramps will be constructed or upgraded at any specific location.*

### **Training Program for Incoming Requests**

As published on the website and instructed to UG staff, incoming calls and request forms for the ADA Curb Ramp and Sidewalk Improvement program are to be directed to the program coordinator, Bill Blackwell, in the Department of Public Works. Once a request is received and the location of the curb ramp is given, the following steps should be performed in response to the citizen:

1. Verify that the curb ramp in question is indeed covered under the current ADA program requirements.
2. If the curb ramp is determined to be corrected by this program, collect information to complete the four questions on the Curb Ramp Request Form.
3. Evaluate where this ramp location falls on the prioritization list according to the current programming and funding schedule.
4. Follow-up with the resident addressing the concern and sharing information regarding the schedule to repair the ramp.

## Brochure for the ADA Curb Ramp and Sidewalk Improvement Program

The following brochure was designed to provide a brief description of the program underway to improve curb ramps and demonstrate to the public what the improvements will entail and when they will be carried out. Copies were provided at the two open house public meetings and for distribution upon request.



For more information, visit the Unified Government website or contact UG's Curb Ramp Improvement Coordinator:

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## ADA Curb Ramp & Sidewalk Improvement Program



## ADA Curb Ramp & Sidewalk Improvement Program

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas is dedicated to providing safe and accessible routes of travel in our community to people of varying abilities.

Each year, the Public Works Department constructs new curb ramps and upgrades existing curb ramps to make sidewalks and streets more accessible and to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

As part of its *Curb Ramp and Sidewalk Improvement Program*, the Public Works Department accepts requests from persons with disabilities to construct or upgrade curb ramps at specific locations and endeavors to prioritize those requests for the earliest feasible construction.

Currently, the UG is in the process of completing an inventory of needed improvements throughout the city. In addition, standard design details and construction estimates are being developed to determine costs to include in the annual budget. Public outreach is an integral part of this program and we welcome your input.



Due to the costs to replace or repair curb ramps across the city, priority will be given to traveling areas near the following locations:

- Public transportation routes
- Public facilities
- Governmental offices
- Educational facilities
- Recreational facilities
- Medical facilities
- Commercial areas

### What improvements are included in the program?

Work will involve repair of damaged and non-compliant curb ramps, and construction of new ramps, as well as inspection to ensure that improvements comply with current ADA regulations.



### Can I request that a location near me be repaired?

Yes - please submit a completed Curb Ramp Request Form or contact the Public Works Department at (913) 573-5700.

### What is the timeline for improving curb ramps?

Over the next ten years, an incremental program will address existing curb ramp locations in need of improvement to comply with ADA regulations.

In addition to requests received from the public, construction of upgrades to curb ramps may be scheduled in conjunction with other street or sidewalk improvement projects.

## Public Meeting Attendance Report and Comments Received

Two open house public meetings were hosted to share information and gather feedback from stakeholders. GBA prepared large maps demonstrating field data of the location of existing curb ramp locations throughout the Unified Government area. Eight people were in attendance and shared general feedback regarding the improvements and walkability of the community, in addition to the following specific comments:

1. Crossline Towers Apartments located at 7<sup>th</sup> & State has a large number of disabled residents. This should be reflected in the prioritization.
2. Ruby (between 12<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>) has recently been improved including curb ramps.

Attendees were encouraged to take Curb Ramp Request Forms to other interested stakeholders and return them to Bill Blackwell for inclusion in the prioritization efforts.



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ONE McDOWELL PLAZA

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#### PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE REGARDING:

#### ADA CURB RAMP IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas is dedicated to providing safe and accessible routes of travel in our community to people of varying abilities. This notification provides information regarding upcoming public “open house” meetings to gather input about the improvement program. Members of the Unified Government staff will be on hand, but a formal presentation will not be given.

Each year, the Public Works Department constructs new curb ramps and upgrades existing curb ramps to make sidewalks and streets more accessible and to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

As part of its **Curb Ramp and Sidewalk Improvement Program**, the Public Works Department accepts requests from persons with disabilities to construct or upgrade curb ramps at specific locations and endeavors to prioritize those requests for the earliest feasible construction.

To learn more about plans for the proposed improvements, and to provide feedback, please attend one of the following public meetings:

**Tuesday, March 15**  
**4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**  
Reardon Center, Shawnee Room #2,  
500 Minnesota Ave

**Wednesday, March 16**  
**4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**  
George Meyn Center in Wyandotte Co. Park  
126th & State Ave

For more information, visit [http://www.wyocck.org/InternetDept.aspx?id=26248&menu\\_id=1446&banner=15284](http://www.wyocck.org/InternetDept.aspx?id=26248&menu_id=1446&banner=15284) or contact UG's Curb Ramp Improvement Coordinator:

Bill Blackwell at [bblackwell@wyocck.org](mailto:bblackwell@wyocck.org)  
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*The intent of this outreach effort is to gather data necessary for prioritizing locations to be upgraded. Priority will be given to locations that complete an accessible route for specific individuals in need or that give improved access to government offices and facilities, transportation, places of public accommodation, or employers. Implementation of requests hinges on project funding and feasibility. Construction of or upgrades to curb ramps may be scheduled in conjunction with other street or sidewalk improvement projects. There is no guarantee that curb ramps will be constructed or upgraded at any specific location.*

## Phase II – ADA Compliance Programming (DOJ Agreement Items 45, 46, and 50)

The method for planning the activities to be taken on a yearly basis, in compliance with the sidewalk provisions of the agreement, started with indentifying what streets within the geographical limits of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas have been constructed or altered since January 26, 1992. A map of the identified streets can be found in **Exhibit 1**. Nearly all of the streets identified to be within the jurisdiction of the Unified Government were found to be constructed or altered since January 26, 1992. Therefore, for program estimating purposes it was decided to evaluate every street within the Unified Government. However, at the time of each year's programming, individual locations will be assessed to determine if they are required to be brought into compliance by the agreement.

Next, an inventory survey was completed on all 2,147 intersections within the Unified Government that have sidewalks. There were 5,627 locations where a pedestrian walkway enters a street at these intersections. Each location was classified into one of the three following categories:

- Sidewalk and Ramp with Truncated Domes
- Sidewalk and Ramp without Truncated Domes
- Sidewalk with no Ramp

A 5% representative sample (281 locations) of the total inventory survey, based proportionally by geographical region and category, was then analyzed in more detail to help determine an average ramp cost. Each of the sample locations were reevaluated and measured for cross slope, longitudinal slope, and width. In addition, a picture was taken to assist in the evaluation of complexity and obstructions related to the construction of a compliant sidewalk ramp. Approximately 90% of the sampled locations were determined to need improvement to be brought into compliance.

Determining an average ramp cost included assigning each sample location with a price based on ramp type and additional costs due to individual ramp complexity and obstructions. Base ramp costs were estimated using previous experience and input from local sources. Ramp types and associated base costs are as follows:

<b>Compliant Ramp Type</b>	<b>Base Ramp Cost</b>
Truncated Domes addition or adjustment only	\$500
Sidewalk Ramp in One Direction	\$2000
Sidewalk Ramp in Two or More Directions	\$3000
Blended Transition	\$3500

Complexity considerations included the size of the ramp and undesirable conditions for tying slopes of the ramp to existing sidewalks. Additional costs assessed to individual ramps due to complexity ranged from \$0 - \$1500. Of the ramps sampled, 35% were determined to have additional complexity costs.

Obstruction considerations included storm sewers, manhole lids, power poles, and other minor obstructions that will require relocation to construct a compliant sidewalk ramp. Additional costs assessed to individual ramps due to obstructions ranged from \$0 - \$6000. Of the ramps sampled, 30% were determined to have additional obstruction costs.

The resulting average cost for ramp construction was determined to be just over \$3350. Additional costs of \$700 for design/plan preparation and \$750 for inspections/submittals were added to the average ramp cost. The resulting total for design, construction, and inspection of an average ramp was \$4800 per ramp. This average ramp cost (adjusted for annual inflation), available yearly budgets, and a list of prioritized street segments were used to plan the construction activities to be completed on a yearly basis in compliance with the sidewalk provisions of the agreement.

Programming priority was given to public transportation routes, public facilities, government offices, educational facilities, recreational facilities, medical facilities, and commercial areas. These locations were found to be well dispersed throughout the Unified Government. The 10-year programming effort resulted in prioritization of selected street corridors and improvement zones that also accommodated the priority areas listed above. The specific list of priorities for the first two construction years is as follows:

- **Program Year 2 (2011) – 51 Ramps**
  - 11<sup>th</sup> St. – Quindaro Blvd. to State Ave.
- **Program Year 3 (2012) – 117 Ramps**
  - 11<sup>th</sup> St. – State Ave. to Ridge Ave.
  - Orville Ave. – 24<sup>th</sup> St to 36<sup>th</sup> St.
  - 55<sup>th</sup> St. – Turner Diagonal Freeway to County Line Road
  - Swartz Rd. – 54<sup>th</sup> Terr. To 57<sup>th</sup> St.
  - 36<sup>th</sup> Ave – State Line Rd. to Rainbow Blvd.
  - Rainbow Blvd. – 36<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 39<sup>th</sup> Ave.
  - 39<sup>th</sup> Ave. – Rainbow Blvd. to Booth St.
  - Booth St. – 38<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 39<sup>th</sup> Ave.

The following table shows a breakdown of the yearly ramp construction required to meet the terms of the agreement. The yearly ramp construction throughout the 10 year program is also depicted on maps in **Exhibits 2-12**.

Program Year	Calendar Year	Total Ramps	Ramps Programmed in CMIP/M&O Budget <sup>(1)</sup>	Anticipated Existing Compliant Ramps	Ramps Programmed in ADA Budget	Yearly Anticipated ADA Budget
1	2010				0 (Planning)	
2	2011	247	196		51	\$250,000
3	2012	342	225		117	\$750,000
4	2013	483	123		360	\$2,000,000
5	2014	962	74	94	794	\$4,300,000
6	2015	856	10	94	752	\$4,200,000
7	2016	712		94	618	\$3,600,000
8	2017	686		94	592	\$3,600,000
9	2018	678		94	584	\$3,700,000
10	2019	661		93	568	\$3,700,000
				<b>Total</b>	<b>4436</b>	<b>\$26,100,000</b>

<sup>(1)</sup> Future M/O projects have not been identified later than 2012 and CMIP projects have not been identified later than 2015.

## Exhibits

- Exhibit 1 – Streets that have been constructed or altered from 1991-2010
- Exhibit 2 – 2011-2019 Construction Activity by Year
- Exhibit 3 – Program Year 2 (2011) Construction Activity
- Exhibit 4 – Program Year 3 (2012) Construction Activity
- Exhibit 5 – Program Year 4 (2013) Construction Activity
- Exhibit 6 – Program Year 5 (2014) Construction Activity
- Exhibit 7 – Program Year 6 (2015) Construction Activity
- Exhibit 8 – Program Year 7 (2016) Construction Activity
- Exhibit 9 – Program Year 8 (2017) Construction Activity
- Exhibit 10 – Program Year 9 (2018) Construction Activity
- Exhibit 11 – Program Year 10 (2019) Construction Activity



# The Unified Government of Wyandotte County / Kansas City, Kansas

**GBA**  
architects  
engineers

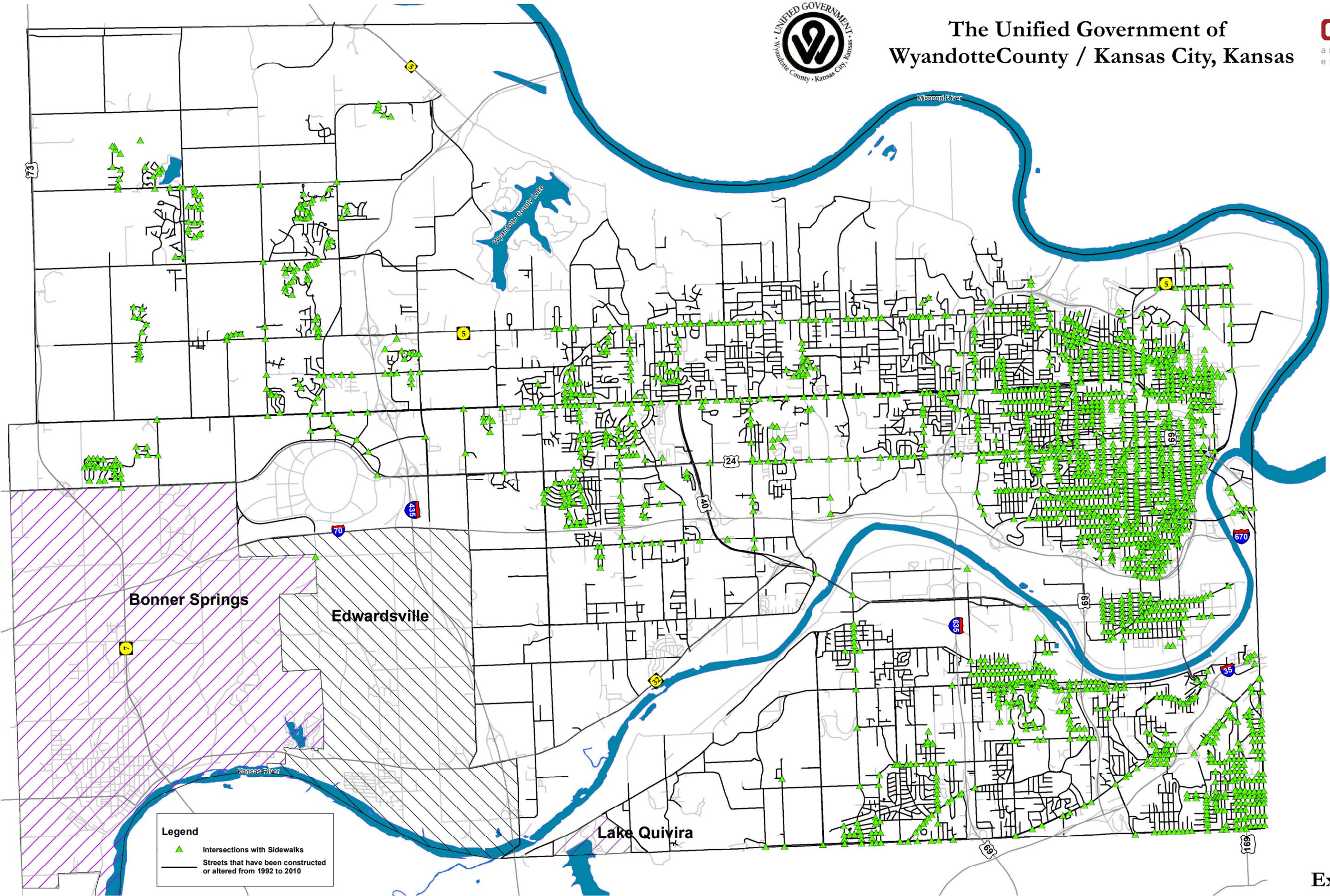
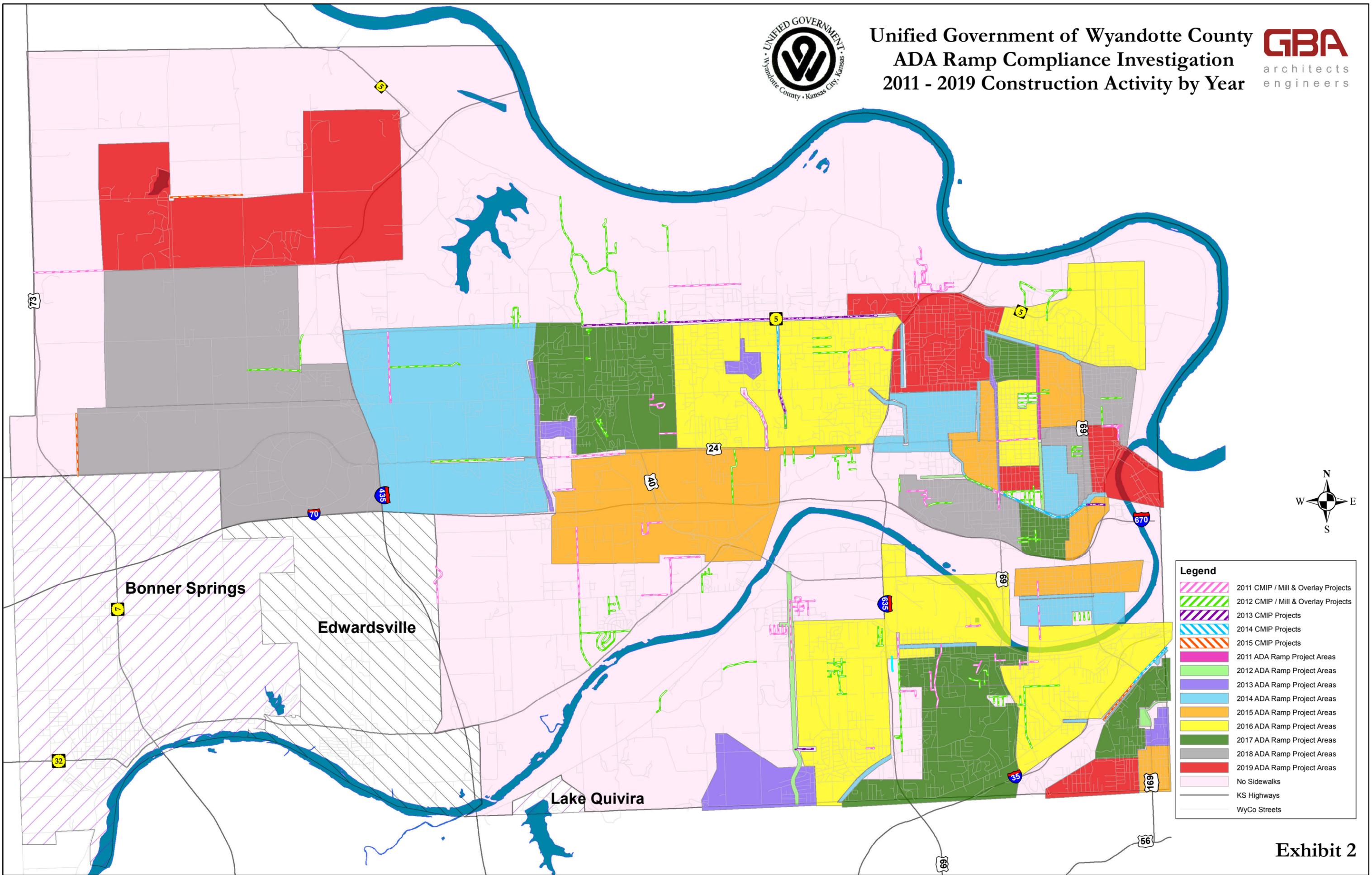


Exhibit 1

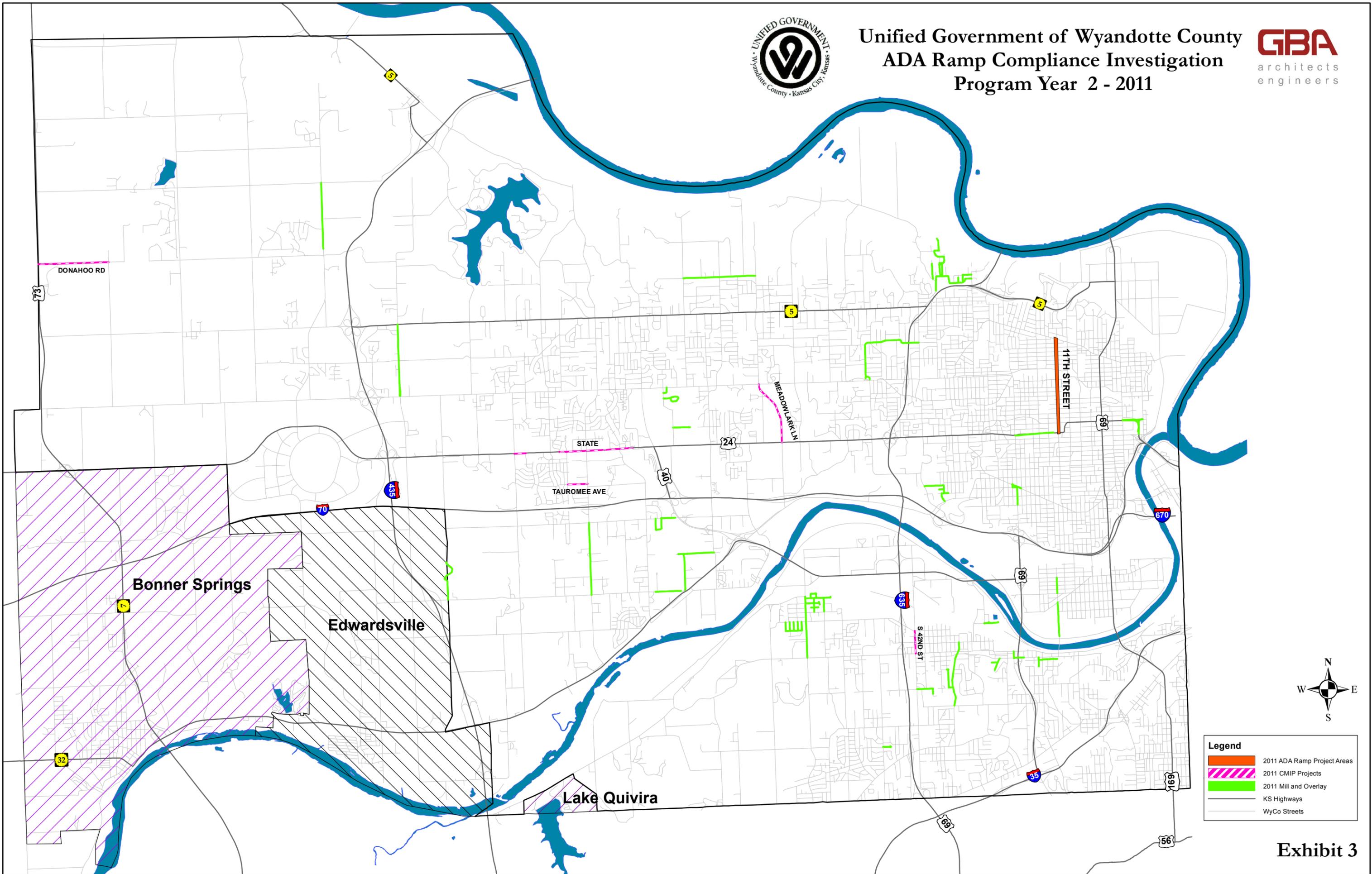


# Unified Government of Wyandotte County ADA Ramp Compliance Investigation 2011 - 2019 Construction Activity by Year





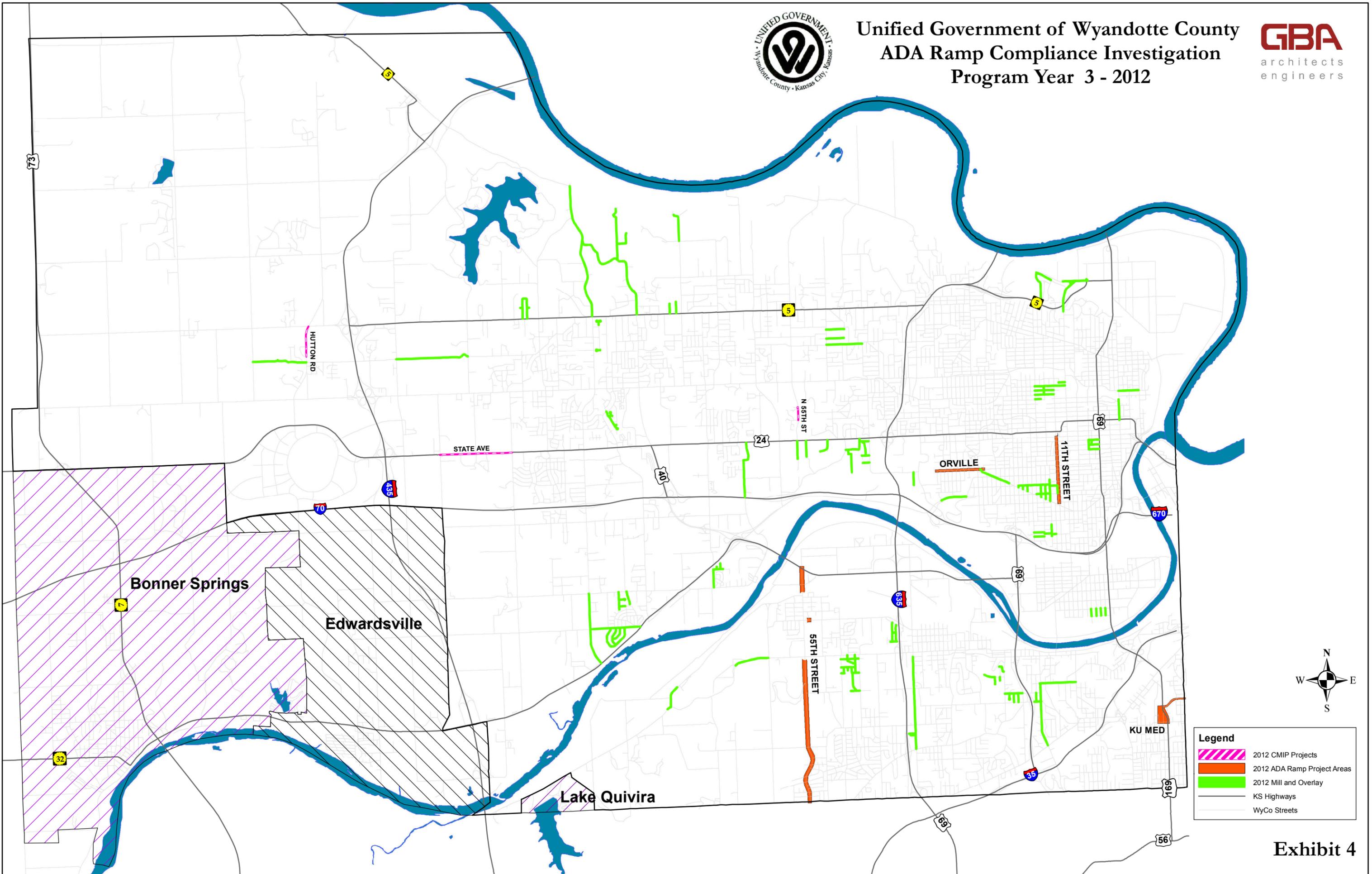
# Unified Government of Wyandotte County ADA Ramp Compliance Investigation Program Year 2 - 2011



Legend	
	2011 ADA Ramp Project Areas
	2011 CMIP Projects
	2011 Mill and Overlay
	KS Highways
	WyCo Streets



# Unified Government of Wyandotte County ADA Ramp Compliance Investigation Program Year 3 - 2012



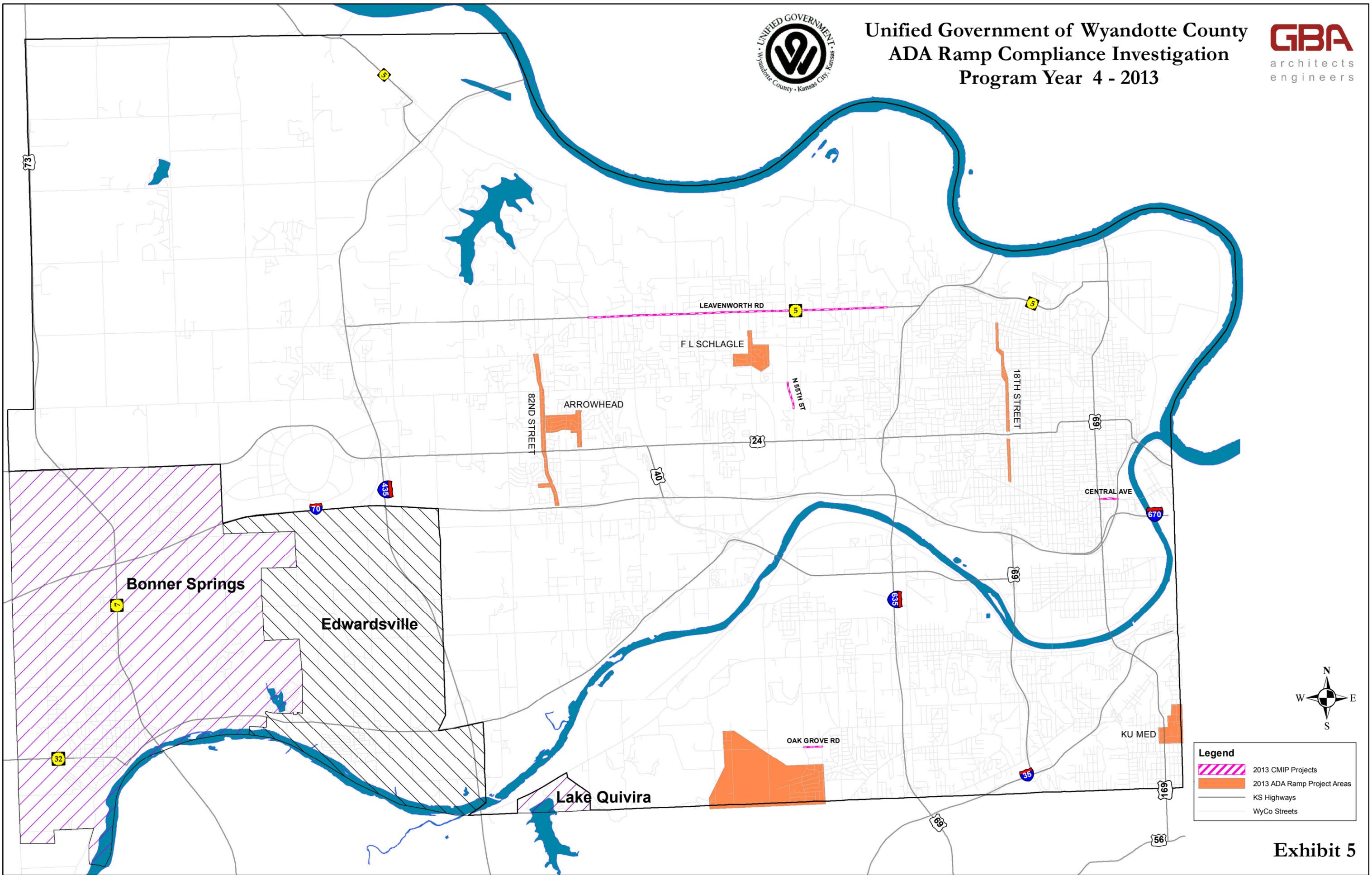
**Legend**

-  2012 CMIP Projects
-  2012 ADA Ramp Project Areas
-  2012 Mill and Overlay
-  KS Highways
-  WyCo Streets





# Unified Government of Wyandotte County ADA Ramp Compliance Investigation Program Year 4 - 2013

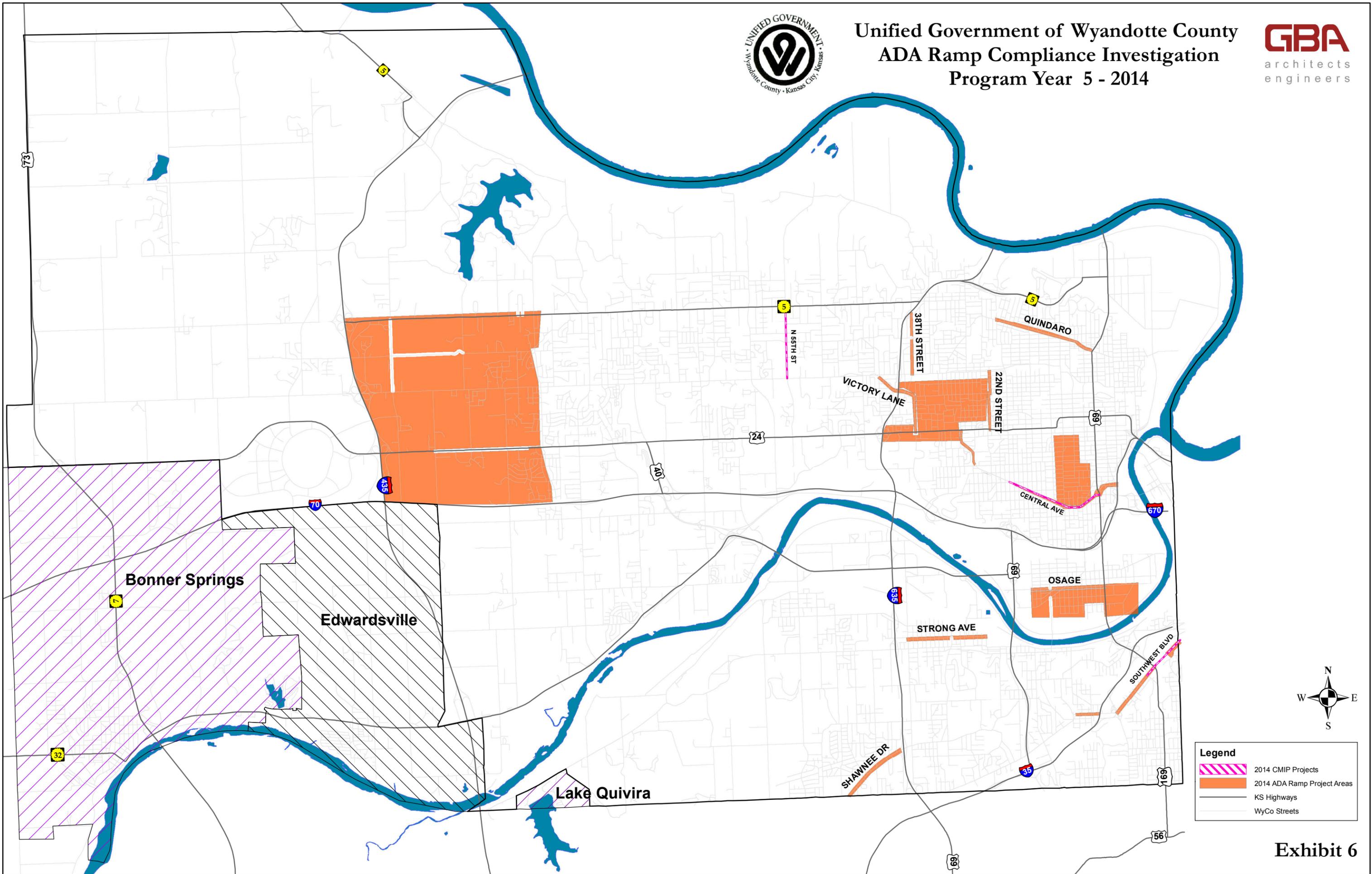


**Legend**

-  2013 CMIP Projects
-  2013 ADA Ramp Project Areas
-  KS Highways
-  WyCo Streets



# Unified Government of Wyandotte County ADA Ramp Compliance Investigation Program Year 5 - 2014

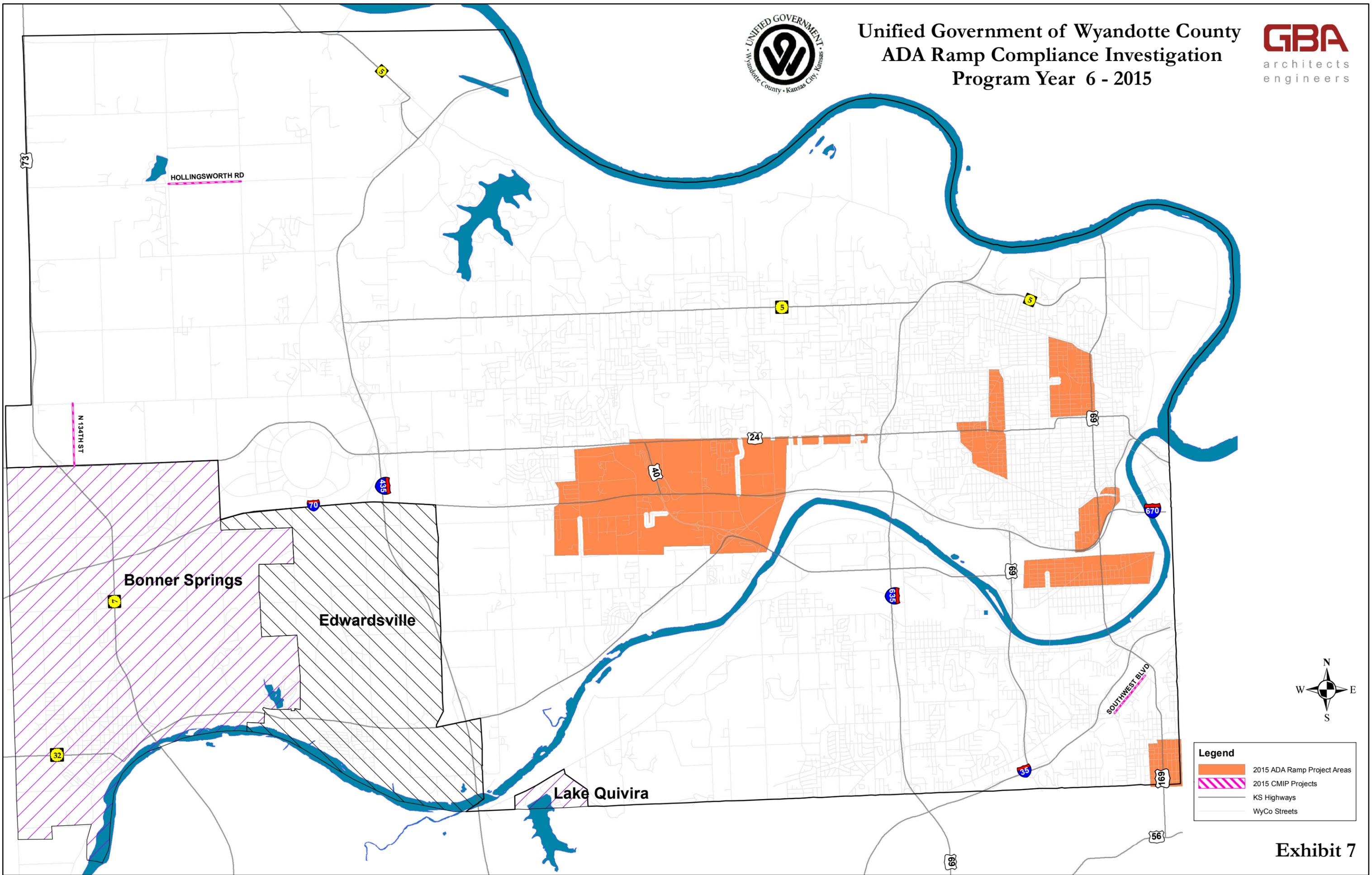


**Legend**

- 2014 CMIP Projects
- 2014 ADA Ramp Project Areas
- KS Highways
- WyCo Streets



# Unified Government of Wyandotte County ADA Ramp Compliance Investigation Program Year 6 - 2015



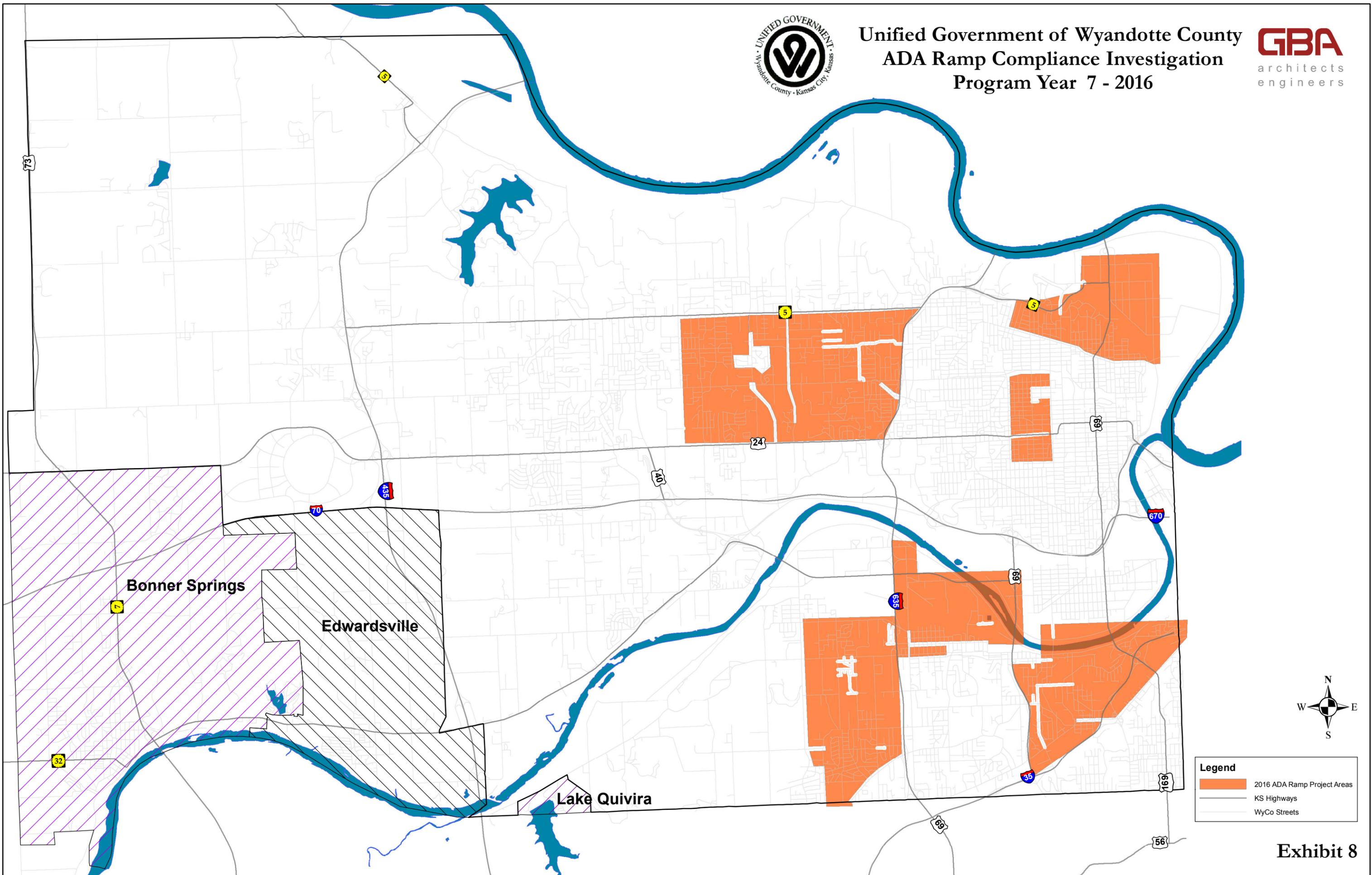
**Legend**

- 2015 ADA Ramp Project Areas
- 2015 CMIP Projects
- KS Highways
- WyCo Streets



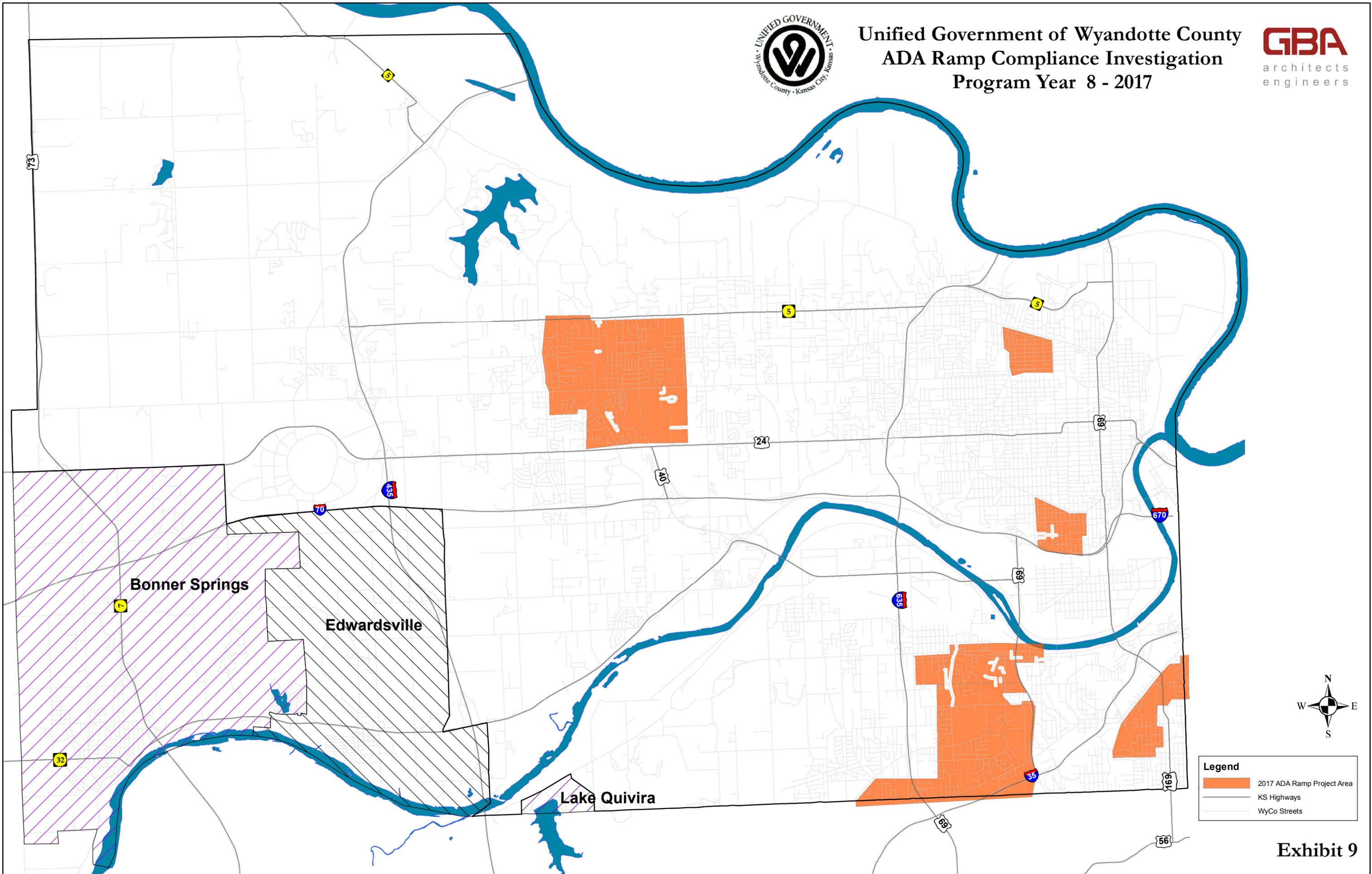


# Unified Government of Wyandotte County ADA Ramp Compliance Investigation Program Year 7 - 2016



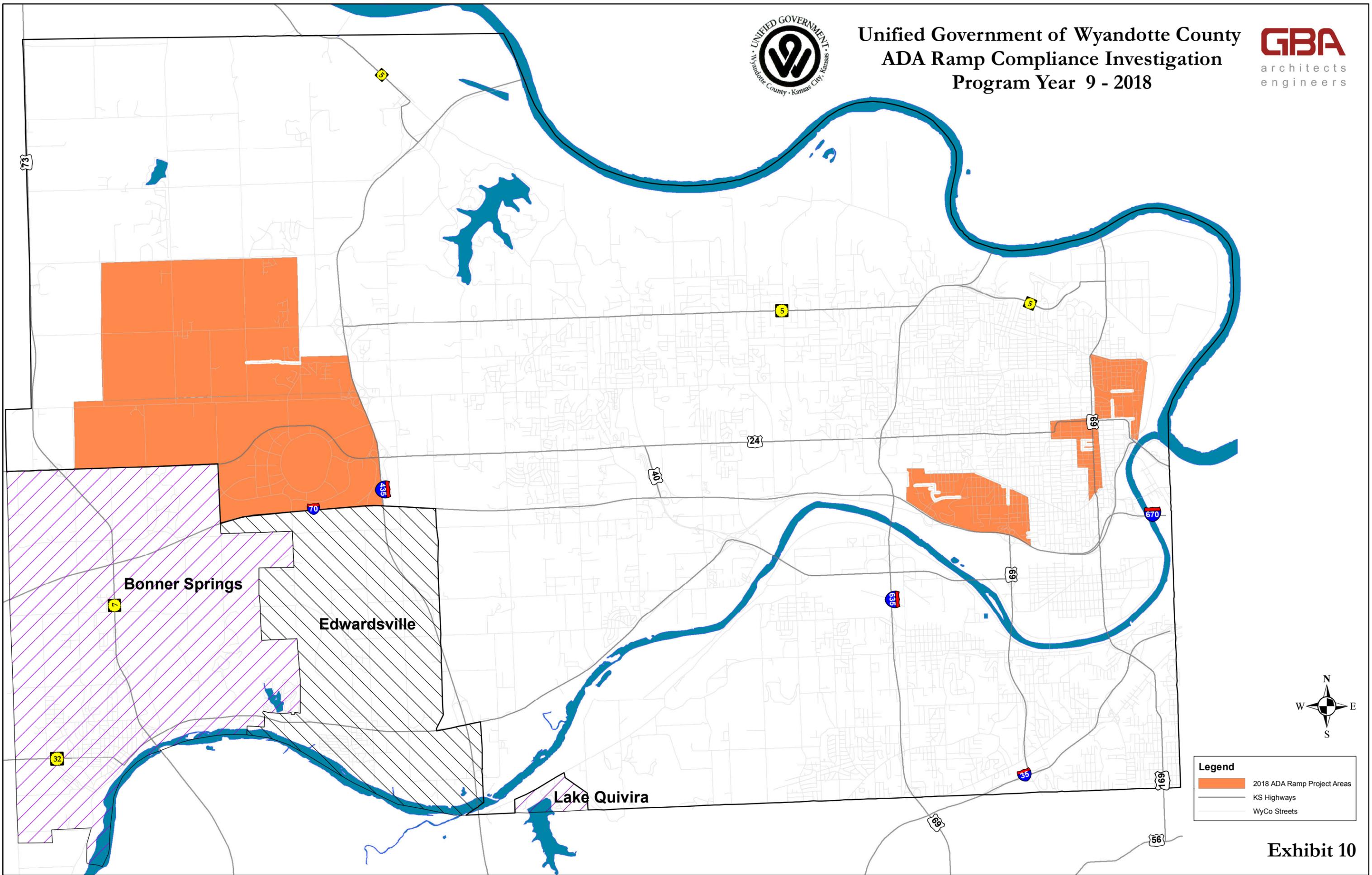


# Unified Government of Wyandotte County ADA Ramp Compliance Investigation Program Year 8 - 2017





# Unified Government of Wyandotte County ADA Ramp Compliance Investigation Program Year 9 - 2018



**Legend**

- 2018 ADA Ramp Project Areas
- KS Highways
- WyCo Streets





# Unified Government of Wyandotte County ADA Ramp Compliance Investigation Program Year 10 - 2019

