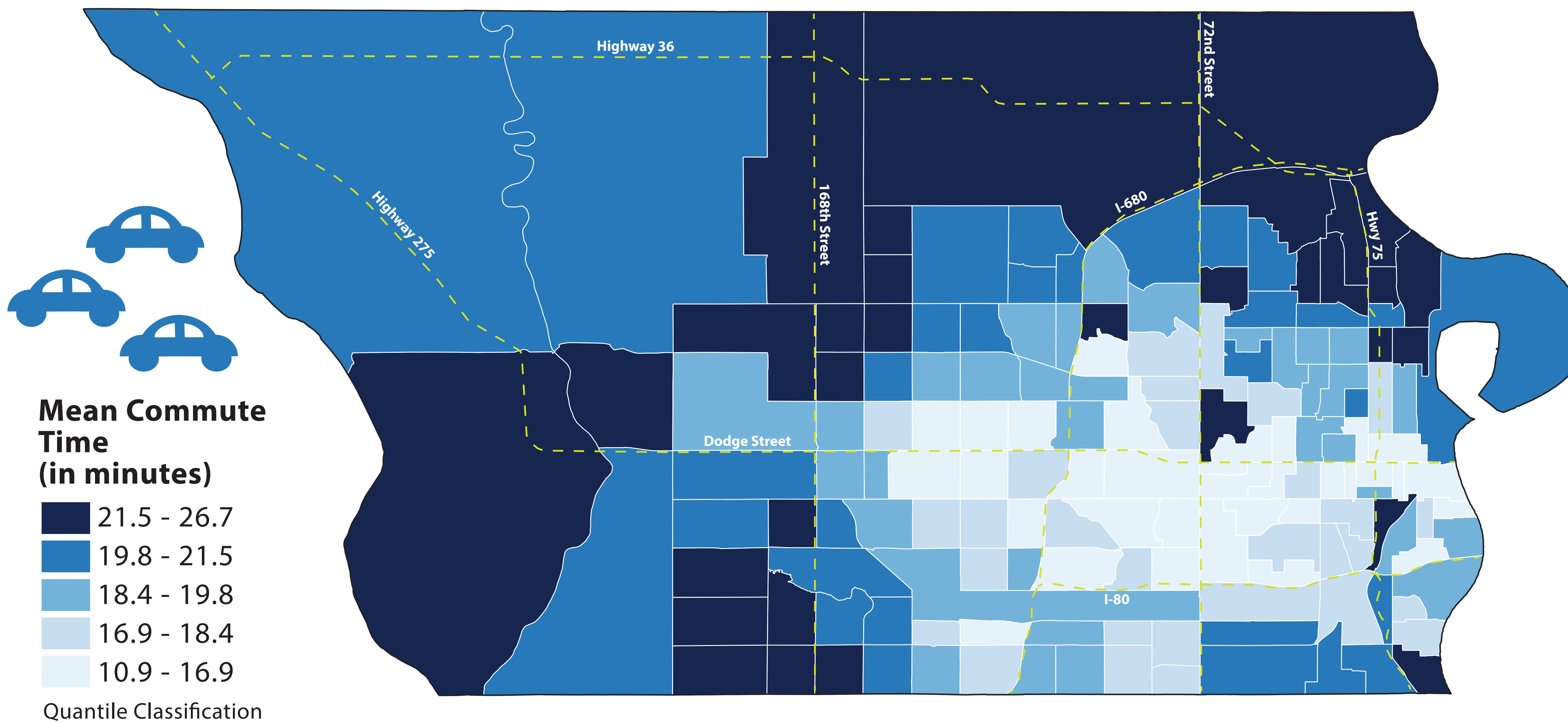


Commute Times and Their Relation to Income and Housing Costs by Census Tract in Douglas County (2017)

Mean Time to Commute to Work

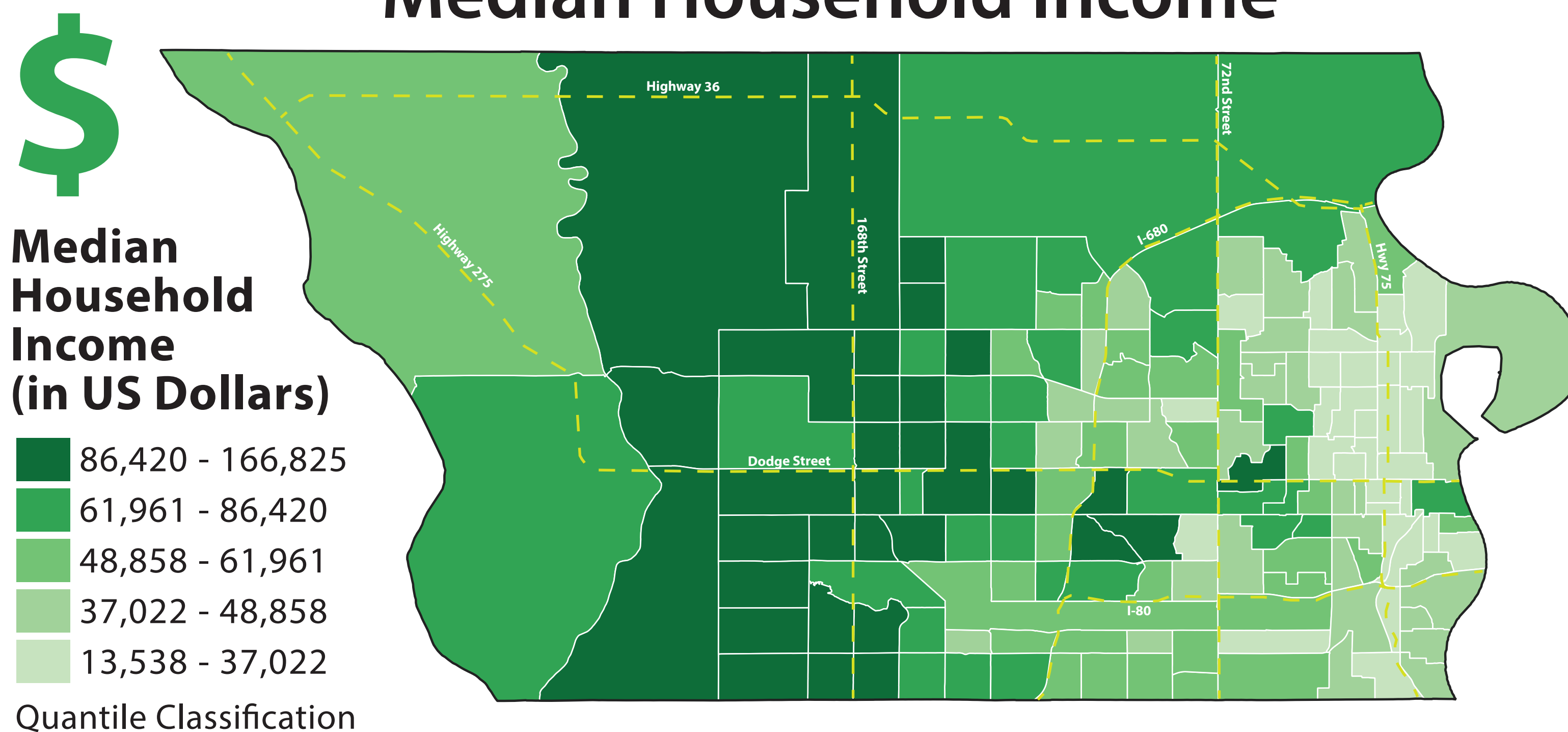


For each of these maps, a quantile classification method was used, where each color within the map represents roughly 20% of the census tracts in Douglas County. The darkest colors represent tracts with the longest commutes (blue), highest household income (green), and highest housing costs (red). The lightest shades of each color represent the shortest commute, lowest income, and lowest housing costs, respectively.

Census tract average commute times to work in Douglas County range from 10 to 26 minutes. The majority of people who live in the midtown and downtown regions of Omaha tend to benefit from shorter commute times, while those living in the western/southwestern suburbs or northern part of the county tend to have longer commutes.

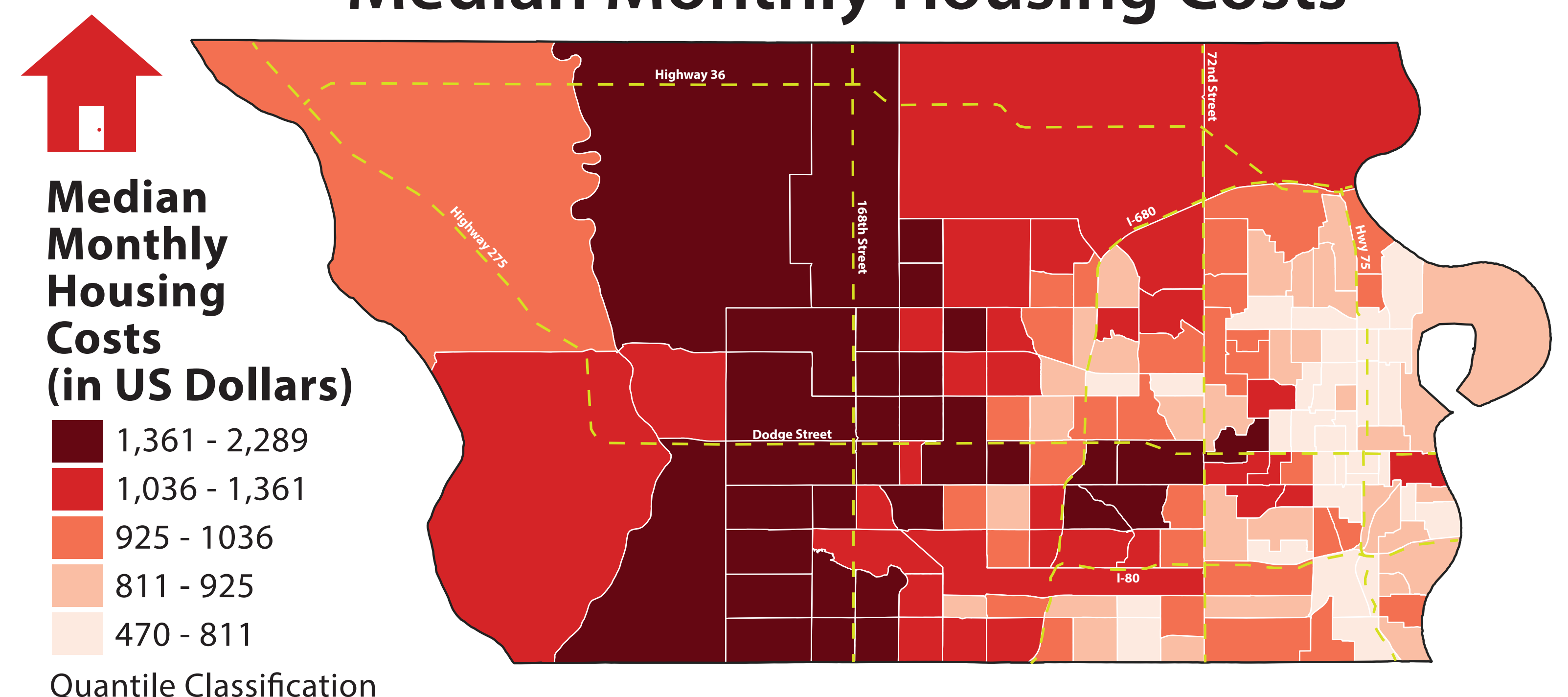
However, there are a couple census tracts with some of the longest commutes located next to census tracts with some of the shortest commutes in the midtown and downtown regions. To investigate why this may be, median household income and median monthly housing costs have been mapped to help identify potential spatial relationships.

Median Household Income



The 20% of the Douglas County census tracts with the highest median household income tend to be located in western Douglas County (i.e. west/southwest Omaha and Elkhorn). There are also a few high income tracts around the Regency, Westside, and Fairacres neighborhoods. The lowest income tracts tend to be on the eastern side of the county (i.e. north and south Omaha). It is not surprising that higher income tracts in the western part of the county tend to have longer commute times, as many jobs, including many high paying jobs, are located on the eastern side of the county. Interestingly, some of the tracts with the lowest income have some of the longest commute times in the county, particularly in north Omaha. If people cannot afford to own cars, using mass transportation may account for longer commutes.

Median Monthly Housing Costs



The median monthly housing costs patterns overlap significantly with median household income, which is logical due to the necessity of having a higher income to be able to afford more costly housing. Because housing is so expensive in the western part of the county, it may explain why many of the lower income tracts have longer commute times. Lower wage jobs in areas of higher housing costs would likely need low-wage workers from areas with lower housing costs. Since the lower income housing areas tend to be far away from higher income areas, their commute times will be longer. This is a good example of why mixed income housing would be beneficial when it comes to reducing the time that people spend getting to work (among other benefits).