SCHOOL BOARD MEMO #24-25-28

DATE: 04/14/25

TO: Members of the West Fargo School Board

FROM: District Administration

RE: Elementary Boundary Adjustments in Hawks Feeder System

FOCUS: Administration is recommending board approval of the Adjusted Comprehensive Plan for elementary boundary changes, set to begin in the 2025-2026 school year.

Proposal Description:

The district continues to experience rapid growth, particularly in the southern portion of the district. Recognizing this, administration anticipated the need for a new elementary school in the Hawks feeder system. Following the failed 2023 bond referendum, which included funding for a new elementary school, the district launched the Facility Planning 2.0 (FP 2.0) task force to re-evaluate facility needs. After multiple meetings, surveys, and public sessions, FP 2.0 recommended to the School Board that open seats in the Hawks feeder system be filled and that a new elementary school be added to Question Two, to be built within 6–10 years. Question Two did not receive the required 60% approval in the February 2025 bond referendum.

To address the current and ongoing crowding at Horace Elementary School, the School Board will need to adjust boundaries within the Hawks feeder system.

Summary of the Recommendation – Adjusted Comprehensive Plan:

In response to feedback and continued analysis, the Adjusted Comprehensive Plan is recommended for approval. Key features include:

- Reduction in impacted learners from 363 to 291

- Minimized movement of learners from McMahon Estates and Horace neighborhoods

- Balanced enrollment across the Hawks Feeder System

- Support for older elementary learners through expanded In-District Transfer (IDT) opportunities
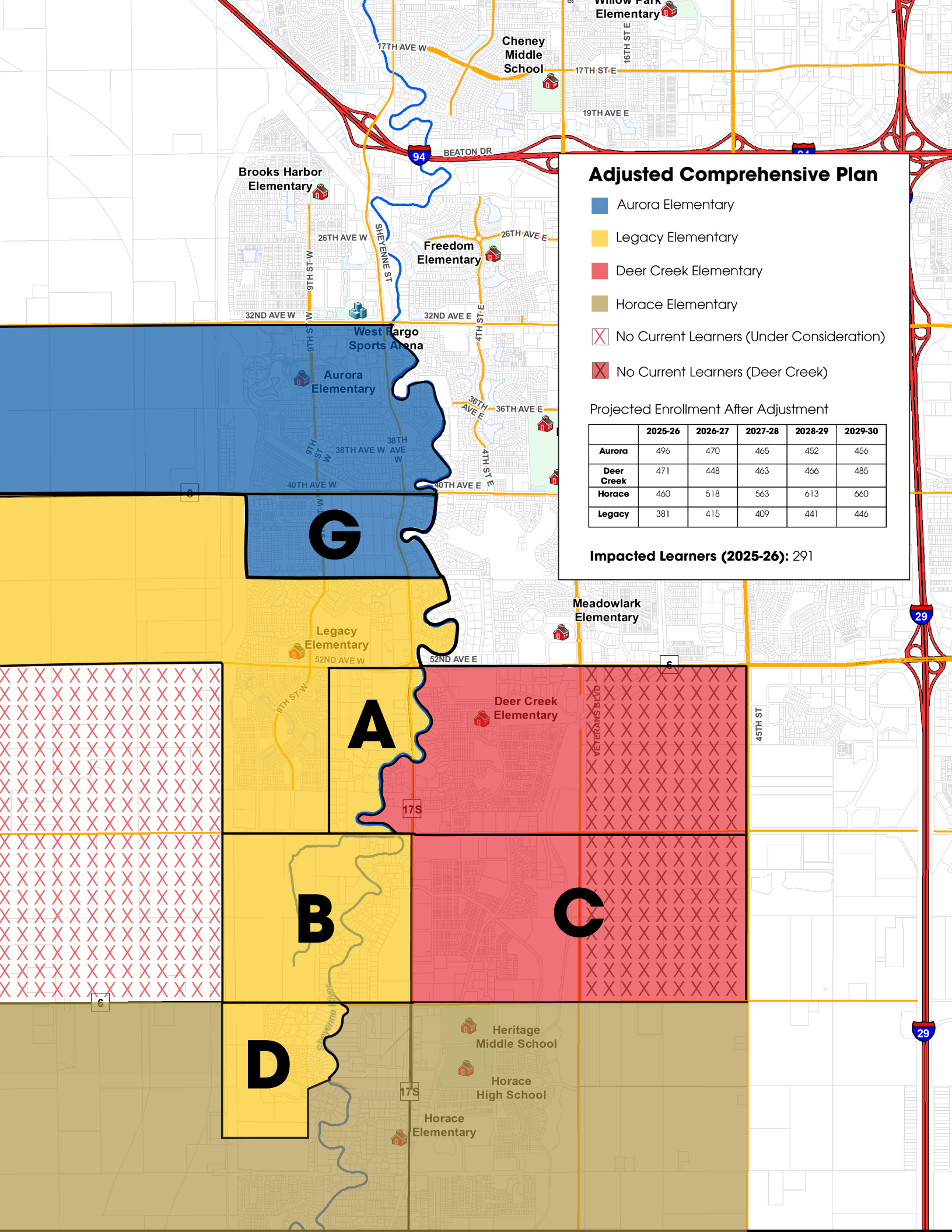
The Adjusted Comprehensive Plan allows the district to honor more transfer requests and provides a more gradual transition for some families. While the plan addresses current enrollment needs, it does not offer a full five-year solution for Horace Elementary. As a result, additional adjustments will be necessary within two years. This phased approach reflects our commitment to minimizing disruption and supporting long-term planning.

Administrative Recommendation:

Administration recommends that the board approve the Adjusted Comprehensive Plan for elementary boundary adjustments beginning in the 2025–2026 school year.

Sample Motion:

I move to approve the Adjusted Comprehensive Plan for elementary boundary adjustments, as presented, in accordance with the administrative recommendation.

Adjusted Comprehensive Plan

- 🟦 Aurora Elementary
- 🟨 Legacy Elementary
- 🟥 Deer Creek Elementary
- 🟫 Horace Elementary
- ⊠ No Current Learners (Under Consideration)
- ⊠ No Current Learners (Deer Creek)

Projected Enrollment After Adjustment

	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Aurora	496	470	465	452	456
Deer Creek	471	448	463	466	485
Horace	460	518	563	613	660
Legacy	381	415	409	441	446

Impacted Learners (2025-26): 291
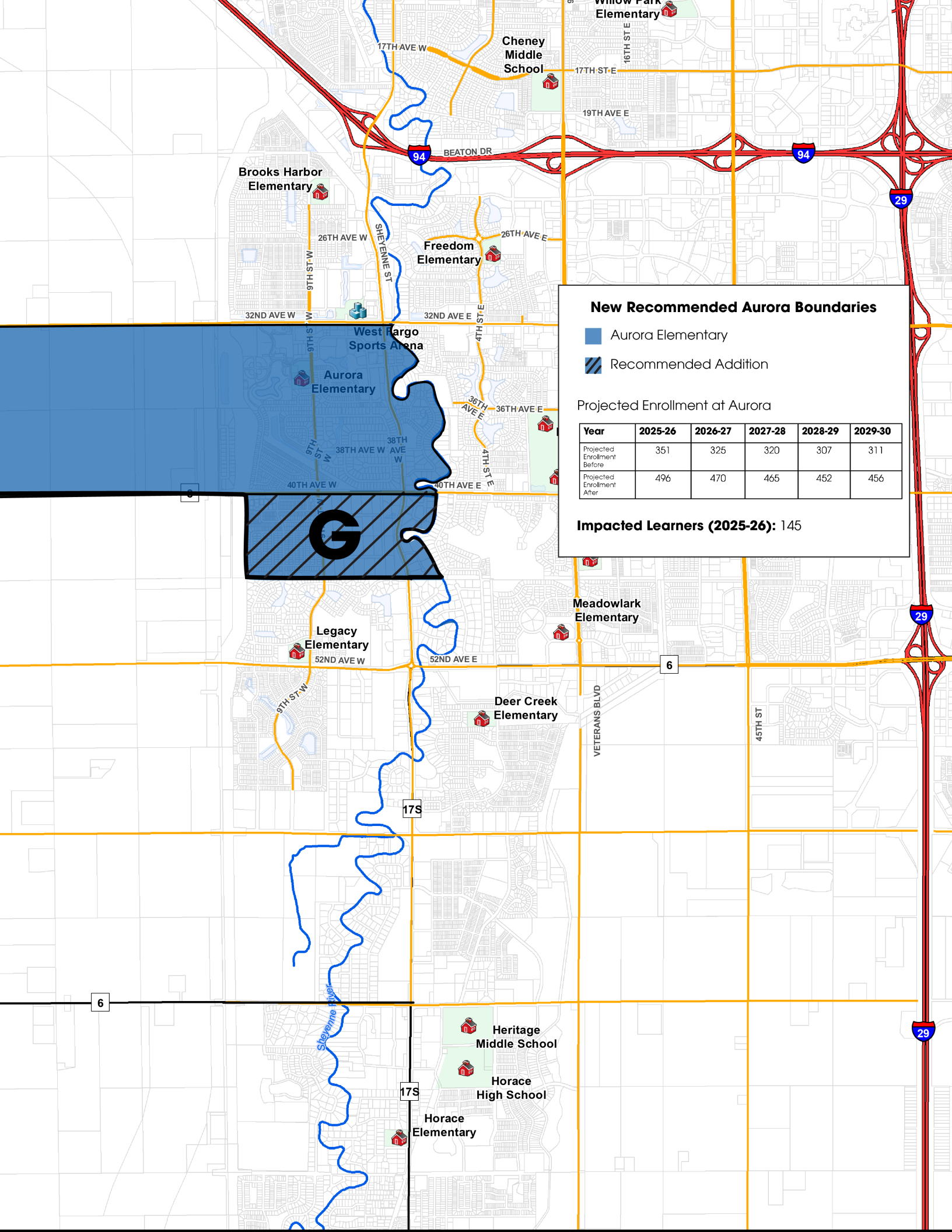
New Recommended Aurora Boundaries

■ Aurora Elementary

▨ Recommended Addition

Projected Enrollment at Aurora
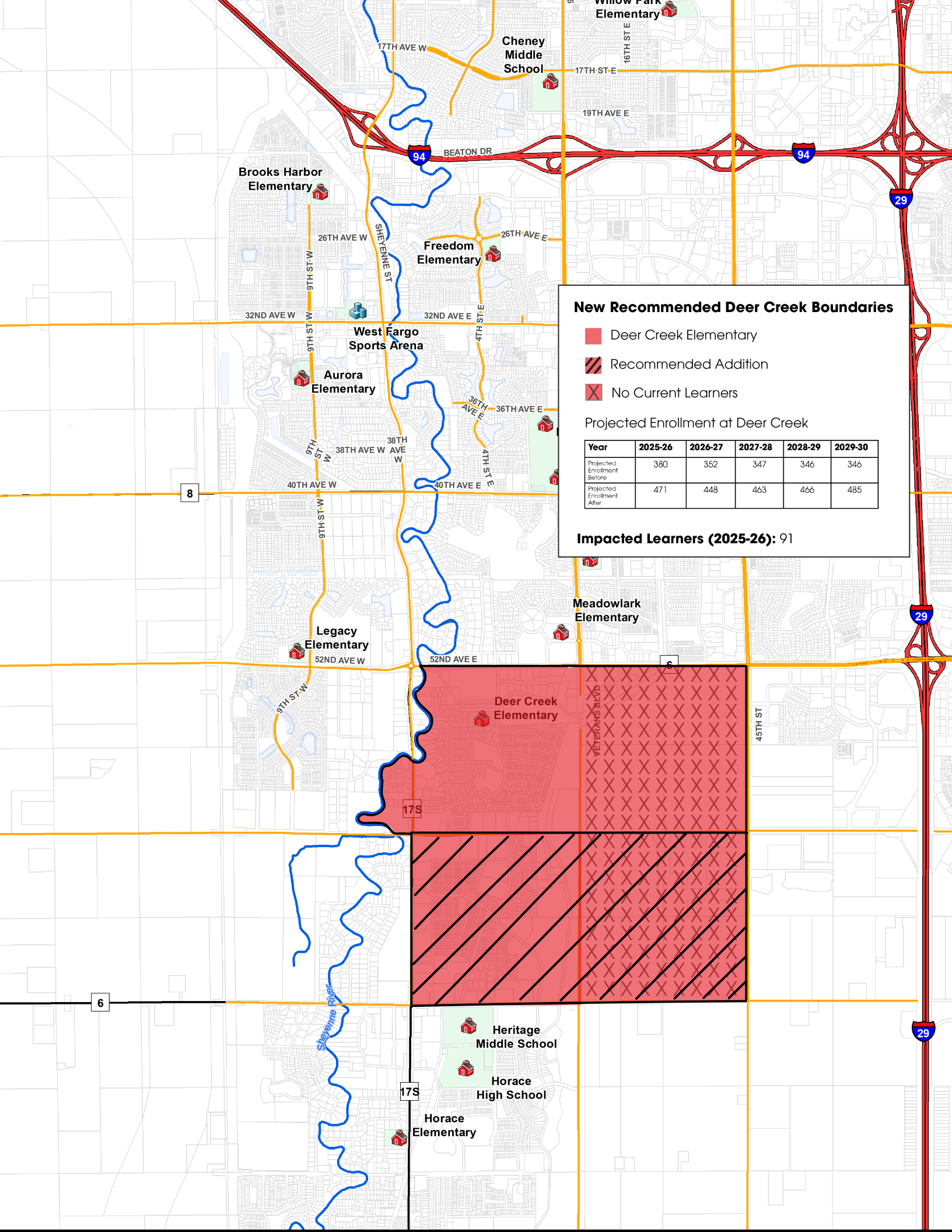
Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Projected Enrollment Before	351	325	320	307	311
Projected Enrollment After	496	470	465	452	456

Impacted Learners (2025-26): 145

New Recommended Deer Creek Boundaries

- ▦ Deer Creek Elementary
- ▨ Recommended Addition
- ▩ No Current Learners

Projected Enrollment at Deer Creek

Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Projected Enrollment Before	380	352	347	346	346
Projected Enrollment After	471	448	463	466	485

Impacted Learners (2025-26): 91
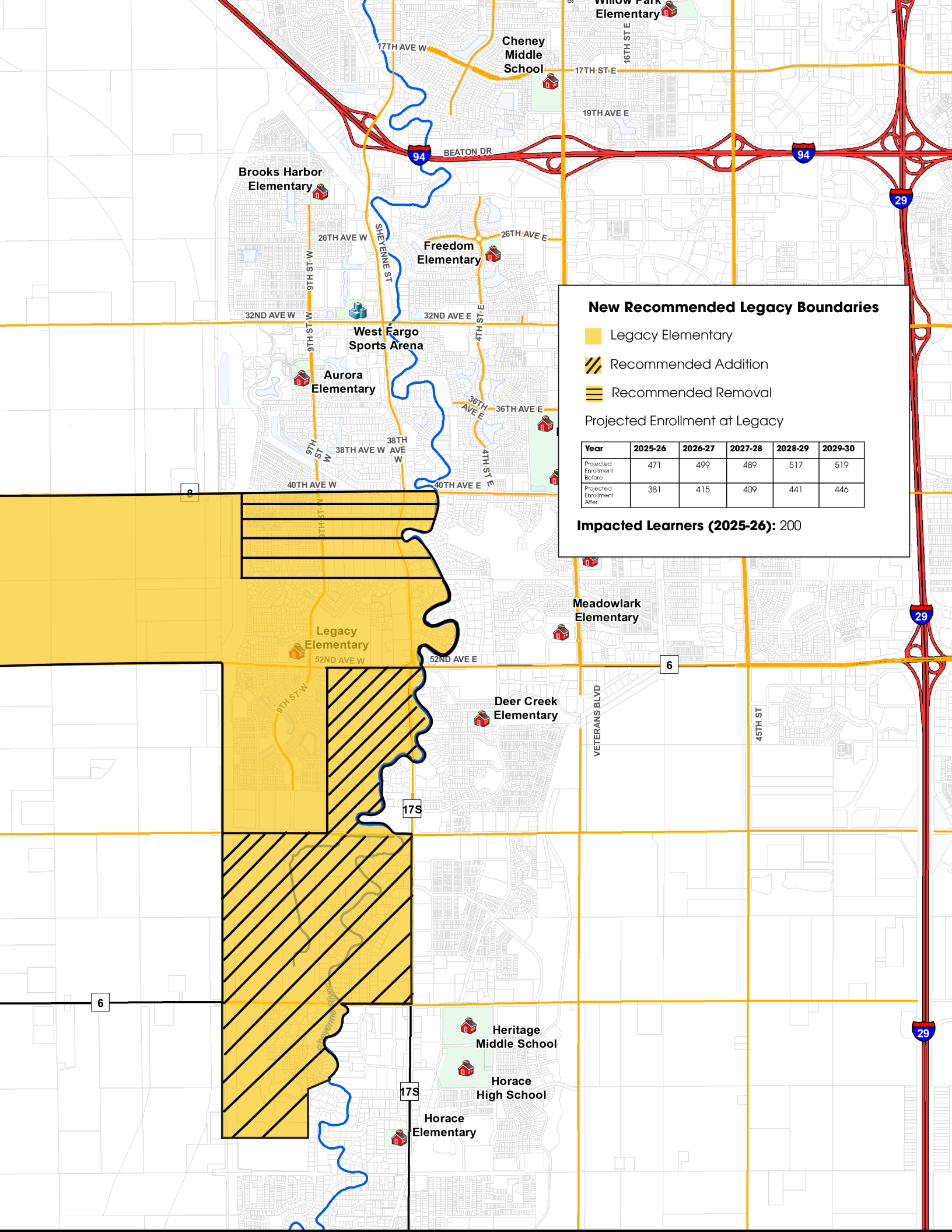
New Recommended Horace Boundaries

Horace Elementary

Recommended Removal

Projected Enrollment at Horace

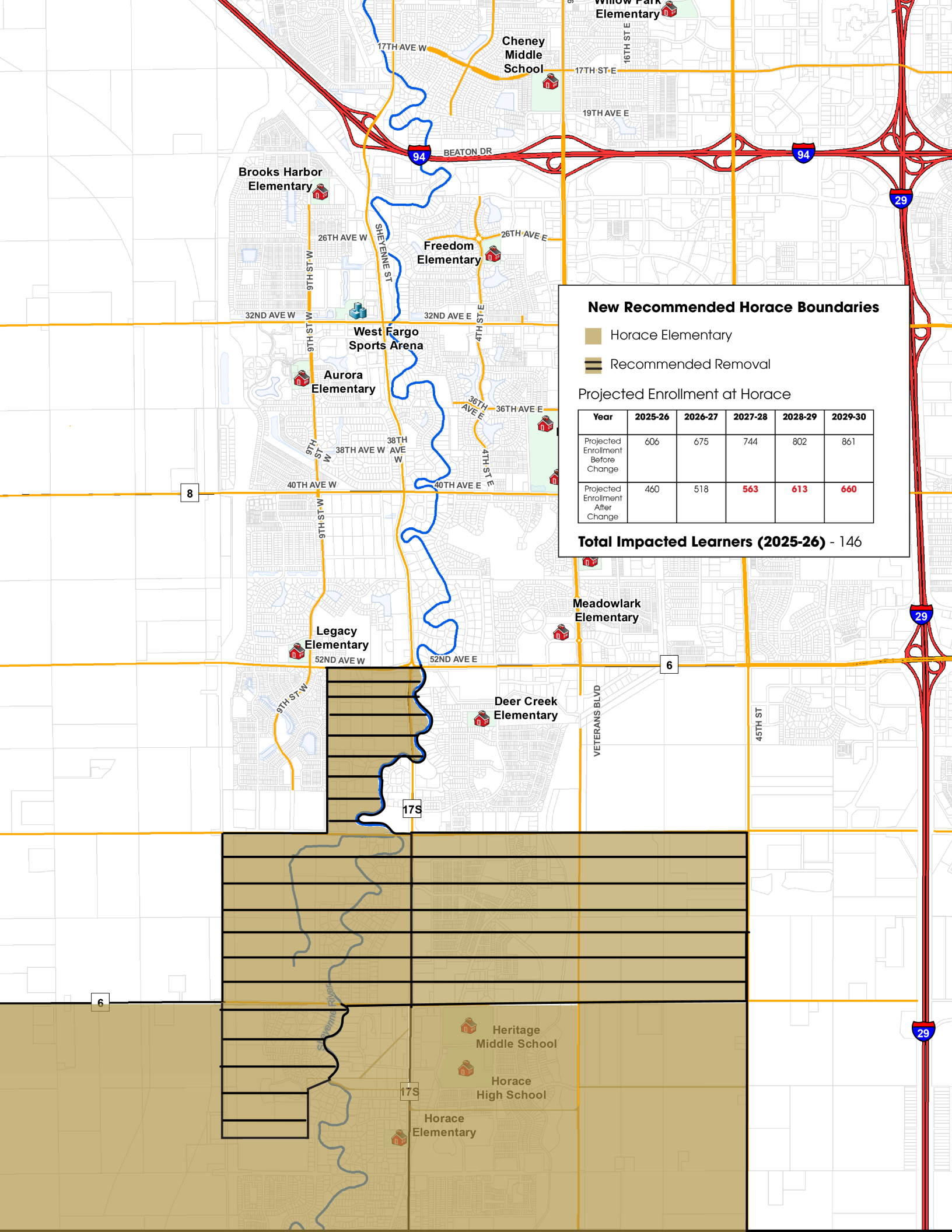| Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Projected Enrollment Before Change	606	675	744	802	861
Projected Enrollment After Change	460	518	563	613	660

Total Impacted Learners (2025-26) - 146

New Recommended Legacy Boundaries

	Legacy Elementary
	Recommended Addition
	Recommended Removal

Projected Enrollment at Legacy

Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Projected Enrollment Before	471	499	489	517	519
Projected Enrollment After	381	415	409	441	446

Impacted Learners (2025-26): 200
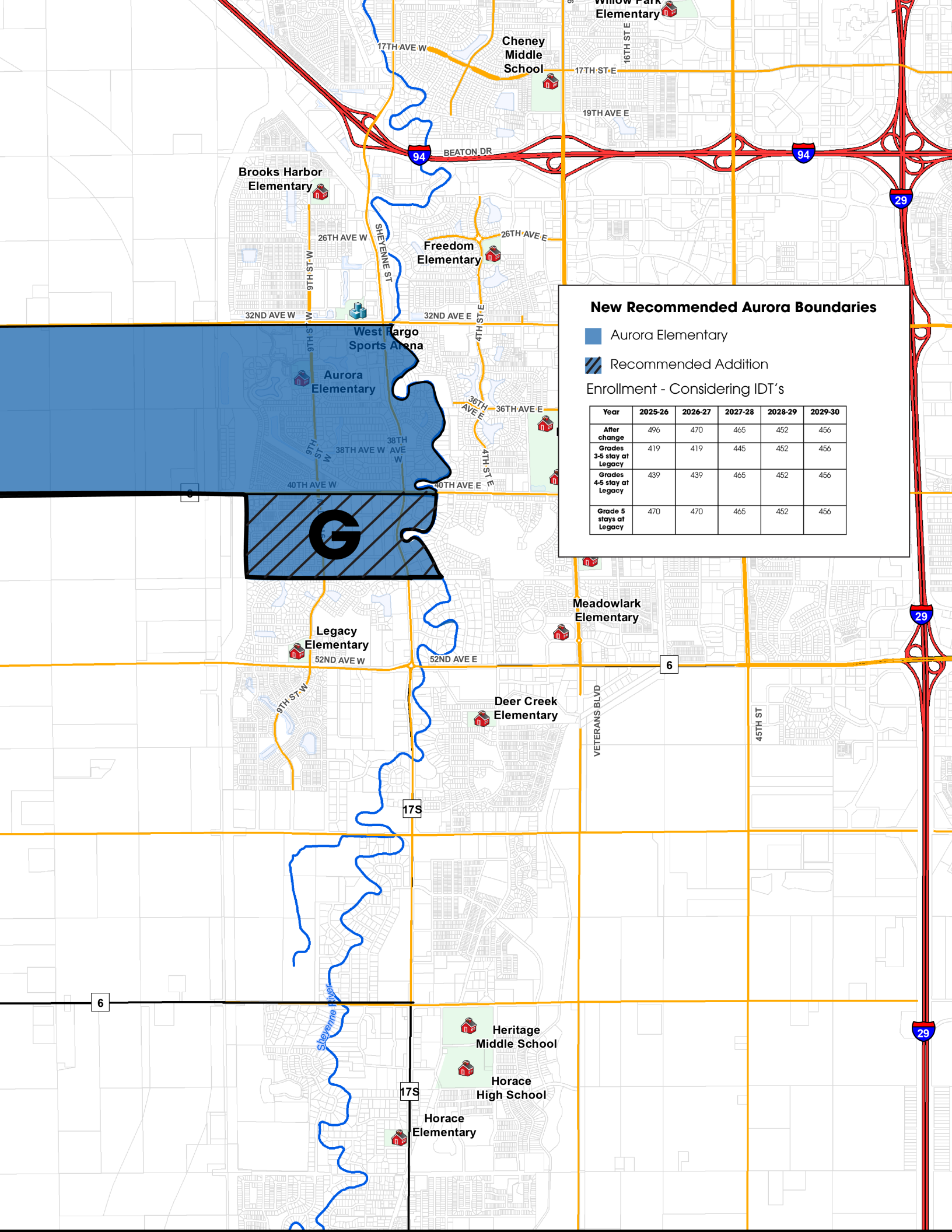
New Recommended Aurora Boundaries

■ Aurora Elementary

▨ Recommended Addition

Enrollment - Considering IDT's

Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
After change	496	470	465	452	456
Grades 3-5 stay at Legacy	419	419	445	452	456
Grades 4-5 stay at Legacy	439	439	465	452	456
Grade 5 stays at Legacy	470	470	465	452	456
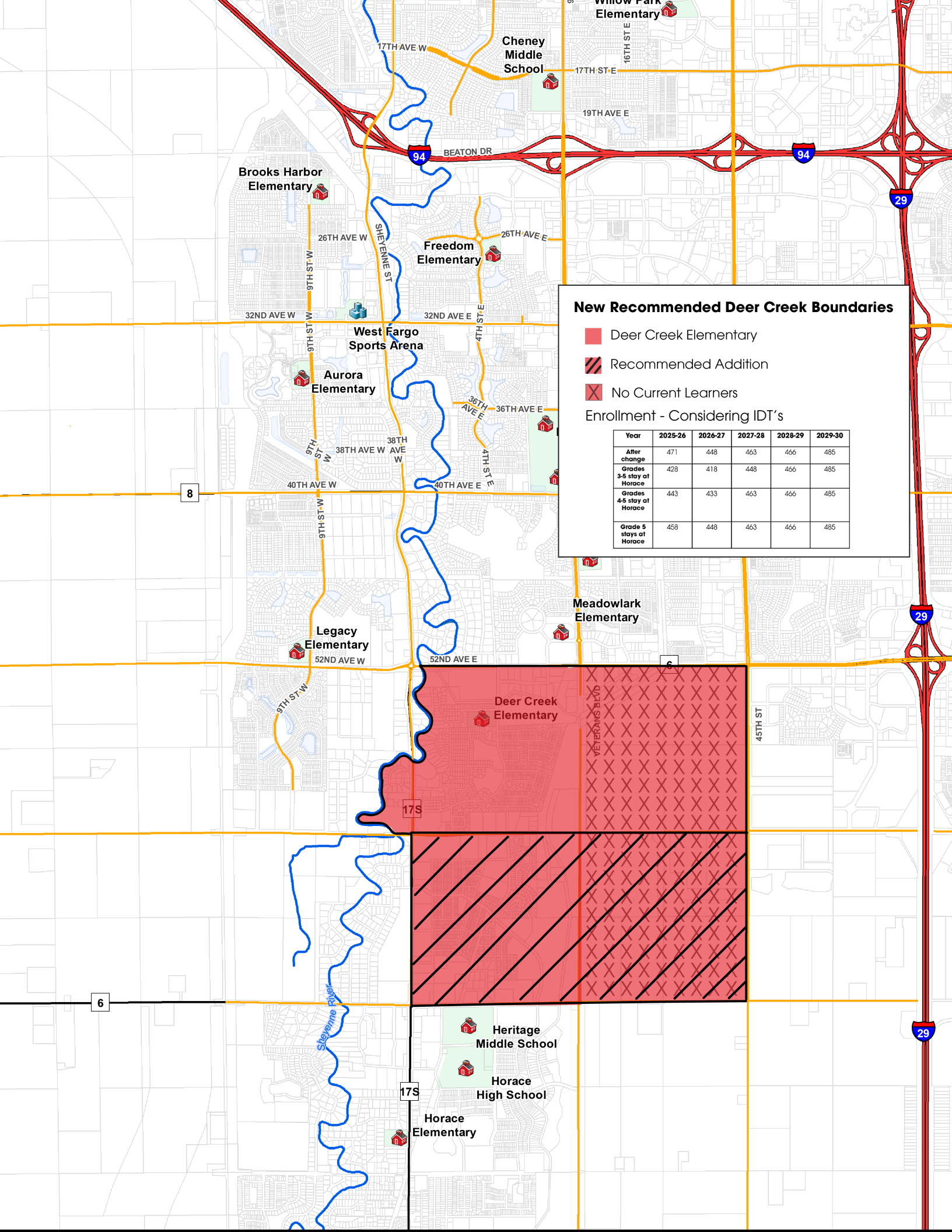
Willow Park Elementary

17TH AVE W

Cheney Middle School

17TH ST E

19TH AVE E

16TH ST E

I-94

BEATON DR

I-94

I-29

Brooks Harbor Elementary

26TH AVE W

26TH AVE E

Freedom Elementary

SHEYENNE ST

32ND AVE W

32ND AVE E

4TH ST E

West Fargo Sports Arena

9TH ST W

Aurora Elementary

36TH AVE E

36TH AVE E

38TH AVE W

38TH AVE W

38TH AVE W

4TH ST E

9TH ST W

40TH AVE W

40TH AVE E

8

New Recommended Deer Creek Boundaries

	Deer Creek Elementary
	Recommended Addition
	No Current Learners

Enrollment - Considering IDT's

Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
After change	471	448	463	466	485
Grades 3-5 stay at Horace	428	418	448	466	485
Grades 4-5 stay at Horace	443	433	463	466	485
Grade 5 stays at Horace	458	448	463	466	485
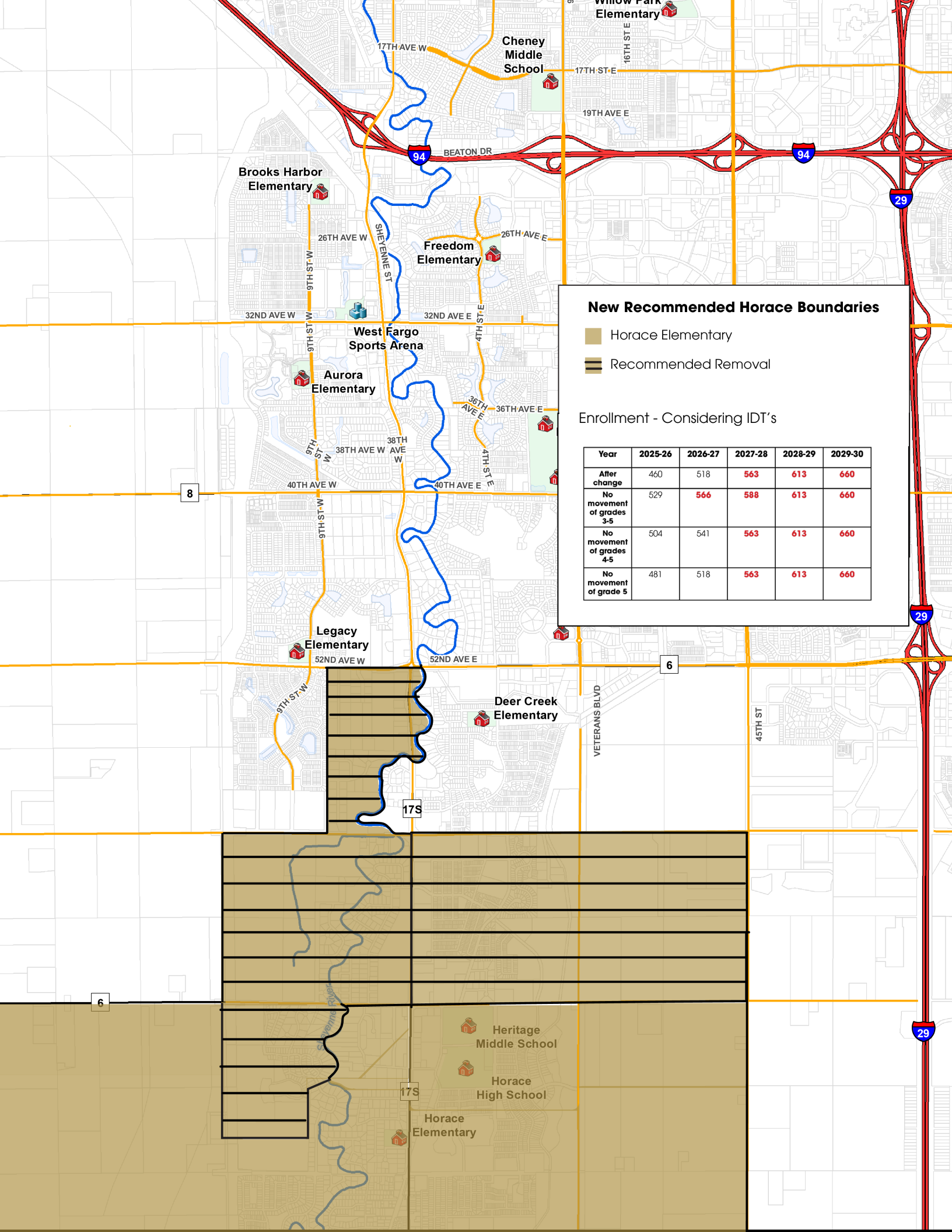
Legacy Elementary

52ND AVE W

9TH ST W

Meadowlark Elementary

52ND AVE E

6

45TH ST

Deer Creek Elementary

VETERANS BLVD

17S

I-29

6

Sheyenne River

Heritage Middle School

17S

Horace High School

Horace Elementary

New Recommended Horace Boundaries

▨ Horace Elementary

▤ Recommended Removal

Enrollment - Considering IDT's

Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
After change	460	518	563	613	660
No movement of grades 3-5	529	566	588	613	660
No movement of grades 4-5	504	541	563	613	660
No movement of grade 5	481	518	563	613	660
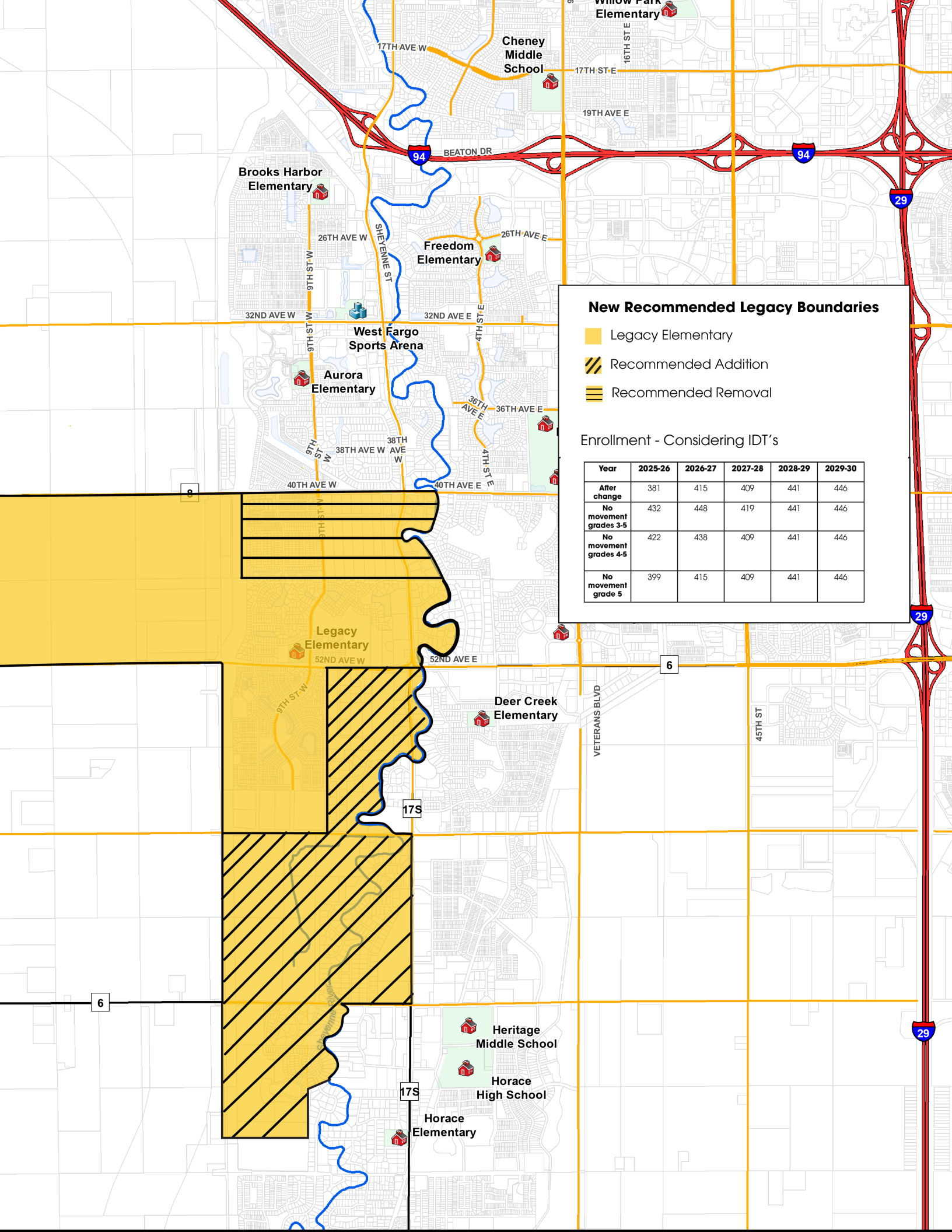
New Recommended Legacy Boundaries

	Legacy Elementary
	Recommended Addition
	Recommended Removal

Enrollment - Considering IDT's

Year	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
After change	381	415	409	441	446
No movement grades 3-5	432	448	419	441	446
No movement grades 4-5	422	438	409	441	446
No movement grade 5	399	415	409	441	446

West Fargo Public Schools
Elementary Boundary Adjustments
Family Feedback Form Responses

Family Concerns

#1 Concern

Moving learners from Legacy/established neighborhoods

#2 Concern

Transportation (walking across busy intersections, and busing)

#3 Concern

Older elementary learners having to switch schools

Additional Concerns

- After school program availability
- School location
- School quality
- 5 years is not a long enough solution
- Aurora will turn back to SHS feeder
- Teaching/ staffing availability
- Timeline of the decision (too fast, need more time)

Family Suggestions to Address Growth

#1 Suggestion

Move Horace learners to Aurora and Deer Creek, leaving Legacy as is

#2 Suggestion

Move new developments and not established neighborhoods

#3 Suggestion

Move learners that have not started school yet (kindergarteners or families that moved)

- Phased approach
- Portable classrooms
- Build a new school
- Wait until next year
- Allow neighborhoods to choose
- 5th grade academy at Aurora
- Split scheduling
- Use buildings in the community
- Have community vote on another referendum
- Move parts of certain grades

* This information is based off of the form submissions from the two informational sessions held on 4.1.25 and 4.8.25