

Testimonial in support of naming a future interchange after Kris Norton as proposed in House Bill No. 2263.

Submitted to the Kansas House Transportation Committee by:

Jonathan Marburger, PE
Friend and colleague of Kris Norton
February 11, 2025

Chairperson Rep. Francis, Vice Chair Rep. Neelly, Ranking Minority Member Rep. Ballard, and esteemed members of the Kansas House Transportation Committee,

I met Kris Norton in 2003 as a new engineer starting a career with the Kansas Department of Transportation. While I have since moved into private consulting work, I continued to collaborate with Kris on multiple projects and engineering questions. As I'm sure many who support this bill will write, Kris was not merely a work colleague. He was a friend, mentor, and all-around generous person.

Kris' impact to the Kansas Highway System is immense. For decades, he worked to improve highway safety, reduce congestion, and design efficient, maintainable infrastructure. I recall working with Kris on everything from passing lane improvements in southwest Kansas to the South Lawrence Trafficway. Kris served as a Road Design Leader at the Kansas Department of Transportation. While he may have had opportunities to advance or take a higher paying job elsewhere, he dedicated his time and efforts to public service.

Kris' influence can be seen in more than just the technical contributions he made as a highway engineer. Kris was a masterful mentor – easy to approach, and willing to teach. There are dozens upon dozens of engineers, either still at KDOT or in the private sector, who owe much to Kris' insight, teaching, and encouragement.

Sadly, Kris passed away from cancer in 2024. The viewing line stretched out of the funeral home and down the block – so much was his influence, warmth, and love extended to others. By naming a future interchange after Kris Norton, the State of Kansas will not only honor Kris and the dedicated public servants who better our lives but will help raise awareness of cancer screening and care.

Please support House Bill No. 2263.

Sincerely,



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