

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 Cheryl Bornheimer Kelley, PE, Colleague and friend of Kris Norton

February 9, 2025

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

I first met Kris Norton 14 years ago when I began my career in roadway engineering at the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). While I never worked directly under him during my tenure at KDOT, he welcomed me into the department, was there for me if I ever had a question and, most importantly, helped me better understand our role as public stewards.

Kris was an outstanding public employee and mentor. He was excellent at working out “dealios” with land owners, as I recently was able to witness while working on the K-10 expansion. He had outstanding relationships with the lawyers and landowners alike, which allowed him to decrease impacts that worried those living near the Wakarusa interchange and eased others' minds on the impacts of utility relocations. Personally, he had faith in me in my role on the project in utility relocation, which meant a lot to me. He truly was an excellent colleague, mentor, and friend.

Naming the K-10/Wakarusa/27<sup>th</sup> Street interchange in his honor seems only fitting. He resided and raised his family nearby, worked with the public to improve the interchange to reduce impacts to the nearby neighborhoods and used that intersection many times to attend his children’s activities or his softball league. His commitment to the state was undeniable.

With this letter, I send in my support of naming the interchange after Kris Norton.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Bornheimer Kelley

Professional Engineer