

February 12;2025 1:30 pm
House Committee on Transportation
Rep. Shannon Francis - Chairman

Todd LaTorella, P.E.
Previous KS Resident (35-years) and KDOT Employee (10-years)
Current Kansas City, MO Resident and Asst. City Engineer for the City of Kansas City, Missouri

HB2263
Proponent, Written Only

Chair Francis and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide Proponent testimony on HB2263.

Thank you for allowing me to express my opinions on this important bill. It is not often that we can recognize someone for their outstanding work and dedication to a career spent in public service delivering transportation improvements to improve safety and spur economic development. Not only did Kris Norton deliver these infrastructure improvements in a professional and cost-effective manner over his many years with KDOT, but he exemplified what it means to be a Kansas Department of Transportation employee, and more importantly a public servant for the people of Kansas.

I met Kris in the early 1990s in Lawrence, KS when we were both starting our careers at KDOT. We worked together on many projects during my 10-years at KDOT and became good friends in the process. Of course, I think the theme you will hear during the testimony today is that Kris was everyone's friend and always brought a smile to everyone's face. Kris had a passion for his job and a passion for life that touched all who he worked and interacted with. In a word, Kris was infectious and a true leader. The world was a better place with Kris in it and we are certainly better for having the privilege to know him.

Please show support and PASS this bill into law making a future interchange on K-10 highway the Kris Norton Memorial Interchange. I know it will bring joy and smiles to all of us that knew Kris, and had the pleasure to know him, when we drive by.

I thank you for this opportunity and greatly appreciate your consideration of this bill.