

Testimony 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: Dave Cronin, P.E.

February 10, 2025

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

I am writing to express support for the dedication of the K-10 & Wakarusa Drive interchange in honor of Kris Norton. I began my professional career in 2001 as a civil engineer working under Kris' direct supervision in the Road Design Department at the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT). I was fortunate to have Kris as a mentor; he took great pride offering guidance and support with boundless patience and understanding. Over 20 years later, in my current role as City Engineer for the City of Lawrence, I had the opportunity to work closely with Kris as KDOT's project manager for the west-leg K-10 expansion project.

Kris displayed leadership in the problem-solving design changes for the future interchange at Wakarusa Dr. to mitigate neighborhood concerns north of K-10, including noise, lighting, visibility and removal of trees. His direction to revise the design from a folded diamond to a tight diamond for the westbound interchange ramps avoided impacting Section 4(f) park lands, improved access to the City's Youth Sports Complex during construction, reduced utility relocations, and will provide long-term safety improvements. It is particularly fitting that we dedicate this intersection in Kris' name because he and his family lived nearby in the Sunflower neighborhood and Kris traversed the intersection for over 20 years in his passion of playing adult softball at the Clinton Lake Sports Complex.

Kris embodied the qualities of an exceptional mentor, engineer, and public servant, leaving an indelible mark during his 33-year career at KDOT. Honoring Kris Norton's memory by dedicating the K-10 & Wakarusa interchange in his name would not only serve as a tribute to his exceptional professional achievements but also as a reminder of the values he embodied – integrity, dedication, and service to others.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David P. Cronin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

David P. Cronin, P.E.