Ben Ware, P.E. 7836 Seneca Lake Road Ozawkie, KS 66070 bware322@gmail.com 785.371.6616 March 11, 2025

## **Senate Transportation Committee**

Kansas State Legislature Kansas State Capitol 300 SW 10th Ave. Room 546-S Topeka, KS 66612

## Subject: Letter of Support for HB 2263

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 2263, which is currently under consideration. This legislation would designate the future interchange at Wakarusa on K-10 Highway as the Kris Norton Memorial Interchange. The passage of this bill is a clear and obvious next step to honor a passionate public servant.

I began my career at KDOT in 2010 and had the privilege of working alongside Kris for 12 years. Kris was a friend to everyone he met and will always be remembered throughout the engineering community for his rare blend of practicality and creativity. He was a dedicated engineer who had a true passion for road design and a deep commitment to serving the public.

Kris served as the project manager for the West Leg project of the South Lawrence Trafficway on K-10, a role that was especially meaningful to him, as the project limits were just a short walk from the home where he raised his children. Though his life ended before he could see the project through to the completion of its final design, his ingenuity and compassion are embedded in this vital transportation investment. His dedication will leave a lasting impact, benefiting our state for generations to come.

I respectfully urge the committee to advance HB 2263 and support its passage in the Kansas Legislature. Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if I can provide further information.

Sincerely,

Ben Ware, P.E. 785.371.6616 <u>bware322@gmail.com</u>