

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

Written testimony submitted to: the Kansas Senate Transportation Committee by Michael Hess, P.E. (retired consultant engineer), 03/05/2025

Dear Chairman Petersen, Vice Chair Kloos, Ranking Minority Member Corson, and members of the Committee,

I wanted to provide written testimony in support of the recognition of Kris Norton and his career at the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and serving the Kansas public. I had the privilege of knowing Kris during his entire career and observed the dedication and trust he built at KDOT over those 30+ years with everyone he engaged with including his coworkers, the consulting community, and the public. Kris was truly a great person and exemplified the characteristics of a servant leader.

I know Kris worked in various roles during his career at KDOT and he was always willing to help others. Everyone trusted the advice and guidance Kris gave– he treated all transportation KDOT projects with pride and ownership and looking out for the best interests of Kansans. He would consider how transportation impacted the citizens of Kansas from both a safety standpoint and monetary standpoint. I was able to experience and view his accomplishments in successfully completing numerous projects across the state. Kris ensured these projects achieved their schedules and were completed on budget as planned and fulfilled the needs of the public.

Kris spent his entire career at KDOT and should be recognized for his dedication and accomplishments. He worked on some of the most challenging projects in the state – one in particular is the K-10 Bypass around Lawrence. This project required leadership, judgment and experience. Kris was a leader for KDOT in making this project successfully reach construction. His experience and understanding of all the complexities of the project and the trust he built with the public were keys to the project moving forward. Kris will not be able to see the completed project, but the public will have decades to enjoy what he helped lead.

I hope KDOT and the state can formally recognize Kris for his service by naming a future interchange after him.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael R. Hess".

Michael R. Hess, PE (Retired)
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