

Testimony for the Record
Submitted to the
Senate Committee on Transportation
For the Hearing
HB 2263
Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 4:00 P.M.
Lucas Smith
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My name is Lucas (Luke) Smith. I am a Professional Civil Engineer with KDOT and have spent about 6 years with the Bureau of Road Design. I would like to advocate for the bill on the dedication of the Kris Norton Memorial Interchange which designates a future interchange on K-10 highway as the Kris Norton Memorial Interchange.

My time with Kris Norton at KDOT began to overlap in 2018 when we met about a vacant intern position. I immediately connected with Kris and accepted the position to work for him. Kris played a key role in shaping me into the engineer and person I am today. Kris prioritized the needs of others over his own needs. If I had a question or a comment, he would take the time and give me the attention I needed to resolve the problem. Kris always knew how to be inclusive of everyone. He had a unique way of bringing people together, not only at work but outside the workplace as well. Kris is someone I will remember forever because of the footprint he made on me as a young engineer. He was someone who would be willing to listen to anything and a person I could trust with whatever I had to say. He always knew how to make people laugh and many times he was a bright spot in a day that was not too bright. After the news broke of his cancer diagnosis, he still had a smile on his face and represented himself with positivity. He would not let this awful disease dictate his life and continued to spend quality time with others when he could have remained home in self-pity. He served the transportation needs of Kansas for over 30 years and made a huge impact in not only those who were fortunate enough to cross paths with him but the lives of all Kansans. He loved serving Kansas, and I believe it is important for us to honor him by dedicating an interchange on K-10 as the Kris Norton Memorial Interchange.

I urge the committee to approve the House Bill 2263 for the dedication of the Kris Norton Memorial. He made a lasting impact on many and deserves this recognition in his memory.