

February 10, 2025

Dear Honorable Members of the Kansas House Committee on Transportation:

I write to you in strong support for *HB2263 - Designating a future interchange on K-10 highway as the Kris Norton memorial interchange*. I am not an engineer and I can't speak to Kris' expertise he had in Engineering. What I can do is briefly note that I met him through a common friend over twenty years ago on a softball field. Over those years I got to know him as a supportive person even if I wasn't a close friend. He was kind, *always* proactively checking in on how things were not only with me but my family. He would do this in a sincere, listening way. He was so supportive in many other ways. What I hear was that he was a great manager who led an impactful team that produced results for the state of Kansas which I can see in how he treated me.

I was born in Kansas and raised in Arkansas City, Eudora, and Lawrence by my dad who was raised in McPherson and my mother who grew up in Garden City. I have fond memories of many family trips across our great state. Our highways, from interstates down to smaller roads help connect Kansans. I've travelled many of them and look forward to traveling many more of them in as safe as manner as possible. A lot of that effort comes from our KDOT employees and all that they do.

This interchange is not safe and my family and I appreciate the State moving forward with adding lanes. Ultimately this work will save lives while helping continue to connect us. I know Kris worked so hard to adjust this interchange to not only make the residents nearby happy as well as produce an interchange that will help people safely get to where they want to go. This would be a fitting memorial for how he lived as an engineer for KDOT as well as a citizen of our state.

I was sad when he lost his battle to cancer. I was excited to hear about this attempt to have this important interchange named in his honor.

Sincerely,

*Lars Leon*

Lars Leon

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