

Kansas House Transportation Committee
HB2263
Kris Norton Memorial Interchange

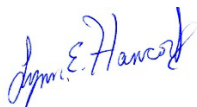
House Committee Members:

February 4, 2025

I write to support HB2262 for the dedication of the Krist Norton Memorial Interchange along K-10 highway.

Kris Norton was a great friend of mine. I came to know Kris shortly after going through an unexpected and very painful divorce in 2016. Kris through a mutual friend invited me to play on his city league softball team. This invitation helped me get through a difficult time in my life, and for that I will ever be grateful to Kris. Through years of playing softball together, I came to know what a great friend, husband, father and mentor Kris was. I have attended several memorials in my life, but was awestruck when I attended the memorial for Kris this past June. The line to attend his memorial event was overflowing as friends, family and his many colleagues at KDOT from his 30 plus years of service to the state showed up to pay him a final tribute. Kris was beloved by all who knew him. Kris is a genuine Kansan, born and raised in Dodge City, he came to KU to pursue a degree in Civil Engineering, and upon graduation immediately went to work for the State of Kansas as a KDOT engineer. Over the years, Kris supervised and mentored many incoming KDOT engineers. I came to know many of them from our softball association, and all of them described Kris as a no nonsense, hardworking man, but a man that held a deep down concern for his fellowman. Kris and his wife Susie raised four boys and a daughter in Lawrence mere blocks from K-10 highway. The revised interchange now presently under construction was initiated under Kris watchful supervision. Kris rarely missed a softball game, even as he battled cancer, he still showed up to coach and sometimes pitch hit. One of the few times he didn't attend softball was to host a townhall event with community members whose neighborhoods could be impacted by the proposed South Lawrence Trafficway project. He listened to concerned citizens and addressed their concerns as plans were finalized to complete the SLT along the K-10 corridor. Sadly as engineering and construction plans were finalized, Kris was diagnosed with Stage 4 colon cancer. He remained optimistic to the end that he would fight and overcome cancer. I recall visiting Kris in the hospital as his body slowly succumbed to the cancer. At that moment, he still talked about making sure we got signed up for the upcoming softball league. The strange twist in Kris journey is that the proposed Kris Norton Memorial Interchange will pass by the very ball fields Kris called home for so many years and goes by the very neighborhood where Kris and Susie raised their kids. A final tribute to honor Kris, would be to name the interchange in his honor. He was the project leader on the design team at K-DOT responsible for implementing the South Lawrence Trafficway, and I petition the committee to approve memorializing his life by naming this section of K-10 in his honor.

Sincerely,



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