

## Public Safety and Hiker Parking

As you are aware last summer hiker parking filled up during weekdays as well as weekends. The following are public safety issues with hiker parking:

1. High level of traffic on Twining Rd. It is steep twisty and narrow.
2. When parking is full, people will park anywhere they can, this includes on the roads, on private property and business parking. A big problem for Emergency services.
3. In summer the dust created by many vehicles on the road creates severe visibility problems and a major health hazard.
4. Speeding.

William's Lake trail and Wheeler Peak trail are very popular. Social media has contributed to this as well as Wheeler Peak being advertised as the highest point in New Mexico. Kachina recreation facilities will continue to attract people (Hiking, the Bavarian, mountain biking, Via Ferrata etc).

Suggested solutions:

- a. Restricted access. Probably not possible as it is a public road. Even if it is possible how do you manage it?
- b. Limited parking on the roads. This has been tried and needs constant supervision and Police activity. This option should be only used for special events in the Kachina area.
- c. Make Hiker Parking paid. Definitely good for getting revenue for alternate solutions. Needs a full time attendant or parking meters. Does not reduce the traffic as people will either drive up or decide not to use Hiker Parking because it's not free, or find somewhere else to park or drive back down. Sign at the bottom of Twining would help but we know how well people read signs. The net result is still a lot of traffic.
- d. A free shuttle service. This has to be **reliable** and **frequent** to work. Also signage to tell people when hiker parking is full (IE parking lot is full, please use free shuttle). Paid parking could help pay for this. We need to get a cost estimate for a summer schedule. To be effective it needs to run continuously from 8AM to 6PM or we will have stranded hikers in the Kachina area.
- e. A gondola from the base to Kachina. Definitely a help in reducing traffic. An expensive option that could supplement a shuttle service. A longer term solution dependent on funding.
- f. A more aggressive approach to prevent speeders. Past experience seems to show these are 'locals' more than visitors. If this is the case fines would be the best way to discourage this. The problem is catching them. We should check if we can have speeding cameras on Twining Rd, rather than stationing an officer there for hours.

- g. Similarly the current fine for illegal parking on village roads is too low. It is cheaper than the cost of parking in a paid lot in most cities. The suggestion is to ask council to increase the fine to make it a deterrent.

## Conclusion

As can be seen there does not seem to be one 'magic bullet' to solve these problems. The most important solution is to provide alternate access to hiker parking. This is the Shuttle service and Gondola. The gondola is probably not going to be a reality for at least 5 years, the village and Kachina commercials need to start working together to achieve this. Again the village and Kachina commercials need to start working together to find the best way to run a shuttle service. With the pandemic and social distancing this summer is probably not good for a shuttle service even if funding is available. This leads to the conclusion that this summer the only viable solution is to allow parking on the roads next to hiker parking.

If c) is used an alternative is needed which means d) or e) or both. We can research a), check with DOT ETC. Option b) is the same as making hiker parking larger which results in more traffic.

It seems the best we can do is implement d) immediately followed by e) when available. If needed c) can help with funding. Parking and speeding violations need to be strictly enforced. Check if we can have speeding cameras on Twining Rd.

## Recommendations

**Support village efforts to reduce traffic by alternative transportation to hiker parking and limit or prohibit parking on roads when alternative transportation is available.**