

## Coal Avenue intersection ready for prime time

By Rodd Cayton

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**GALLUP** — There's something new at Coal Avenue and Third Street.

The intersection recently reopened, and has wider curbless sidewalks on the corners, two new bike racks, and a new colored concrete intersection design that ties into the design for the forthcoming phase of the Coal Avenue Commons project.

Those are the visible improvements, said Kara Smith, executive director of **Gallup MainStreet**.

“What you can't see underground is a new drainage pipe system and electrical wiring,” she said.

### Improvements

This wiring, she said, will connect

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## Coal Avenue

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stoplights (which will be up and running soon) that allow for improved ADA and pedestrian access for street crossing. The intersection is currently controlled by temporary stop signs.

“The improvements not only make crossing the street and turning the corner safer and more accessible,” Smith said, “but the vibrant, unique design also opens up improved visibility to see the businesses located near the intersection.”

Smith said she's hoping visitors who pass through will feel welcome and excited to be downtown. It's also hoped that they support downtown businesses while enjoying the space.

The next milestone for the project is to finish the installation of the storm sewer and the installation of underground utilities on Coal Avenue between Second and Third streets, which includes tearing up the existing roadway.

The work is in progress now.

“Folks can walk by and see the large trench and work as it is happening,” Smith said.

Smith said the laying of the storm sewer should be done by next week.

### Shutterbugs welcome

Residents and visitors are encouraged to take a socially-distanced-stroll downtown and bring their cameras. One point of interest is Jerry Brown's new mural on the back of Dental Innovations, 214 W. Aztec Ave.

Photos taken at one of the four new corners and posted to social media will be entered to win a gift card to a downtown business.

Shutterbugs are asked to remain on the sidewalks, as the area is an active intersection and right next to an active construction zone.

Tag @gallupmainstreet on Facebook or Instagram and use #gallupmainstreet to be entered to win.

