## **Coal Avenue Commons to open April 8**

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Coal Avenue Commons is officially complete and City of Gallup officials are inviting the public to celebrate the project alongside the first night of ArtsCrawl.

A ribbon cutting with project partners will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday at the intersection of Second Street and Coal Avenue. The event will celebrate the successful completion of the multi-phase design and construction project and will coincide with the first night of the popular Arts Crawl series, held from 7 to 9 pm every second Saturday until December.

The project began in July 2020 to transform two blocks of Coal Avenue between First and Third streets. Work included improvements to intersections, drainage, walkways, lighting and crosswalks – including the state's first "scramble" style crossing where traffic is stopped from all sides and pedestrians can move diagonally across the intersection.

"Coal Avenue Commons is a wonderful addition to downtown Gallup and would not have been possible without strong support from our project partners," City Manager Maryann Ustick said. "This team consistently stepped up with the vision, funding and creative solutions to help the project succeed."

The total project cost, through the design and two construction phases, was approximately \$8.3 million and was funded using a variety of sources. Thanks to the community's state legislators, the project received a large boost of nearly \$680,000. The bulk of project funds, amounting to over \$4 million, came from the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

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