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Atchison's new era begins Tuesday evening

**(KAIR)--A new-era begins in Atchison, with the opening of the 500 and 600 block of Commercial Street to vehicular traffic as of Tuesday evening.**

**According to a Tuesday afternoon release from the City, the opening is planned by 5:00 Tuesday evening, July 27**

**That comes as part of an underway overhaul of the City's downtown district, with a major portion of the work involving the now-complete removal of the former pedestrian mall.**

**According to a release from the City, motorists, in the days to come, "should expect limited impacts to parking availability as contractors work to button up the project."**

**The release also notes that the 500 block of Commercial Street will be closed most of the day on Friday "in preparation for a grand opening event hosted locally by Atchison Main Street and the Atchison Area Chamber of Commerce" that evening.**

**Traffic has not been allowed in the two blocks of Commercial Street in nearly sixty-years, with the former pedestrian mall replacing the streets following two flash-floods that devastated the City's downtown in 1958.**

**Removal of the mall began in February.**

**The Atchison City Commission voted last year to move forward with demolition of the mall, with 75-percent of the demolition project's cost being funded through a Kansas Department of Transportation grant, leaving the City responsible for the remaining 25-percent.**