AHET 2018 Summer Update
June 20, 2018

The Hudson River Valley Greenway and our consultants – GPI (Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.) and Alta Planning + Design – continue to make progress on the planning and engineering design for creation of the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail (AHET). This update summarizes recent activities and highlights plans for the next six months. Comprehensive information about the project is available on our website: www.AHETtrail.org

Overview and Project Schedule

The Hudson River Valley Greenway (Hudson Greenway), a New York State government entity, is leading the development of the AHET Trail, which will be a 35-mile walking and bicycle trail from the City of Hudson to the City of Rensselaer, winding through Columbia and Rensselaer Counties. The majority of the AHET Trail will follow a historic electric trolley rail line which is currently owned by National Grid. Where necessary, portions of the AHET Trail route will run on the shoulders of public roadways.

Work on the trail is currently underway on many fronts including engineering, design, environmental review and permitting. The project remains on schedule, which anticipates:

- Final engineering plans will be completed this fall
- The project will be bid in December of this year for construction starting in spring 2019
- Trail construction will be completed by December 2020
Activity on the AHET Corridor – Next Six Months

Adjacent landowners can expect to see personnel along the AHET route this summer and fall as project planning advances. All personnel will carry identification and may “knock on the door” of adjacent residences when appropriate:

- **Personnel Field Work.** Employees from the Hudson Greenway, National Grid, GPI (Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.), and TRC will be completing field work along the AHET corridor to inform the detailed engineering design for the project.

- **Boundary Survey Crews.** The firm PDG (Popli Design Group) will be surveying the boundary of National Grid’s property in a number of locations, including installing flagging, boundary stakes, and survey pins.
National Grid Projects

In addition, National Grid will be undertaking several projects along the AHET corridor during the summer and fall, extending into the spring of 2019:

- **Vegetation Clearing.** National Grid periodically removes brush, limbs, and trees to protect their utility lines and infrastructure. This year, National Grid plans to perform vegetation management along the AHET corridor from July 2018 through March 2019. Work will not be continuous, as specialized crews will be assigned segments as the crews become available. Asplundh Brush Control will be doing the vegetation management work. They will attempt to make courtesy contacts to adjoining landowners.

- **Relocation of Utility Poles, Lines, and Guy Wires.** To accommodate creation of the AHET Trail, National Grid will be relocating utility poles, lines, and/or guy wires at certain locations. National Grid staff and their consultants (TRC) will be conducting site visits at specific locations on their utility corridor this summer and fall as they develop detailed designs for their relocation projects. Telecom companies including Verizon and Spectrum/Time Warner Cable may also conduct field work. Construction activities (actual relocation of poles, lines, and guy wires) are slated to start in December and continue through Spring 2019.
AHET Landowner Outreach

Adjacent landowners who own property next to the AHET Trail corridor can request an on-site meeting to learn more about the project and discuss any questions or concerns by contacting Lisa Hartman at GPI (lhartman@gpinet.com; 518-898-9555).

SEQRA/Environmental Impact Statement

The Hudson River Valley Greenway continues to advance environmental review of the AHET Trail project under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The Greenway issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on March 8th, 2018, followed by a public hearing on March 28th, 2018 at Ichabod Crane High School and a 60-day public comment period that ended on May 8, 2018. The Greenway is now developing the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), which will respond to all public comments and include any updates to the AHET Trail design. The Greenway anticipates issuing the FEIS in late July, which will be followed by a 30-day public comment period.

Are you interested in knowing what comes next on the AHET?

Community outreach will be ongoing throughout the project, and we appreciate your comments. The website will be updated regularly with project documents at www.AHETtrail.org.