Albany-Hudson Electric Trail
January 22, 2020 Update

The Hudson River Valley Greenway is creating the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail (AHET), which will be a 36-mile bicycle and pedestrian route from the City of Rensselaer in Rensselaer County to the Town of Greenport in Columbia County. The majority of the AHET Trail will be an off-road “rail trail” built on an historic electric trolley corridor, now owned by National Grid. The remainder of the AHET route will be designated along public roadways.

Comprehensive information is available on the project website: www.AHETtrail.org. Specific questions about the project can be sent to the Greenway using the “Submit Comment” section on the website.

Trail construction started in May 2019, and significant progress was made during calendar year 2019. However, at present, no trail segments have been completed. Given the project’s 36-mile length, two construction seasons will be needed to complete the trail, with all work completed by mid-November 2020.

There is NO public access to the AHET Trail at this time.

For everyone’s safety, the public is prohibited from entering construction areas. Snowmobiles, ATVs and Dirt Bikes are Prohibited on the trail corridor.
**Rensselaer County**

The Greenway selected **Carver Construction, Inc.** to construct the 17-mile AHET Trail section in Rensselaer County. Current status:

- During 2019, significant progress was made in completing site work and drainage improvements in the **Town of Schodack** and **Village of Nassau**. Bridge abutments and steel girders were set at four locations where the trail crosses the Valatie Kill and Mooresett Kill (the bridge decks and rails will be installed in 2020). Although significant progress is being made, no trail sections have been completed to date.

- Construction activities have largely shut down for the winter. Work will restart in February 2020, with activity in all three towns (**Nassau, Schodack, and East Greenbush**) and the Village of Nassau.

- The AHET Trail will be completed and open to the public in mid-November 2020.

- Note: High use sections in East Greenbush and the Village of Nassau will be paved asphalt trail. The Greenway originally planned low use sections would have a stonedust surface (stonedust is a finely ground limestone material). However, to enhance the trail’s durability and prevent risk of trail erosion, the Greenway has decided to install recycled asphalt millings on the low use sections in Rensselaer County (milled asphalt is similar to traditional pavement).

**Columbia County**

The Greenway selected **A. Colarusso and Son, Inc.** to construct the 19-mile AHET Trail in Columbia County. Current status:

- During 2019, significant progress was made in completing site work, drainage improvements, and trail construction in the **Towns of Chatham, Stuyvesant, and Kinderhook**, including the Villages of Valatie and Kinderhook. Bridge abutments and steel girders were set at two locations where the trail crosses the Valatie Kill (the bridge decks and rails will be installed in 2020). Although significant progress is being made, no trail sections have been completed to date. Construction activities, currently shut down for the winter, will restart in the spring of 2020.

- Trail construction in the **Towns of Stockport and Greenport** is starting this month (January 2020), including construction entrances and signage, staging equipment and materials, and clearing vegetation. Construction activities will accelerate this spring.

- The AHET Trail will be completed and open to the public in mid-November 2020.
• The AHET Trail in several high-use areas, such as the Village of Kinderhook, will be paved asphalt. The remainder of the Trail in Columbia County will be a stonedust surface (stonedust is finely ground limestone, which is compacted to provide a hard, durable surface).

AHET Trail Regulations

New York State has adopted regulations governing the public’s use of the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail, which include:

1. **Dawn to Dusk Use Only.** The trail is open to public use from dawn to dusk only. Trail use is prohibited during night-time hours.

2. **No Motor Vehicles, All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), Dirt Bikes, or Snowmobiles.** Public use of ATVs, dirt bikes, snowmobiles, automobiles, trucks, and all other types of motor vehicles is prohibited.

3. **Dogs.** Dogs and other pets are allowed on the trail. Dogs must be kept on a 6-foot leash at all times, and owners must dispose of their pet’s waste in a prompt and sanitary manner.

4. **No Entering Private Property.** Leaving the trail to enter private property adjacent to the trail without the explicit permission of the private landowner is trespassing.

5. **No Littering or Dumping.** Littering, dumping, or abandoning garbage or refuse is prohibited.

6. **No Hunting, Firearms, and Weapons.** Hunting or discharging firearms on the trail is prohibited. The possession of firearms, bows, crossbows, or weapons on the trail is prohibited.

7. **No Equestrian Activities.** The use of horses is prohibited.

8. **No Alcoholic Beverages.** The consumption of any alcoholic beverage, or possession of an open container of any alcoholic beverage, is prohibited.

A comprehensive list of trail use regulations is available on the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail website and in New York’s Codes, Rules and Regulations at 9 NYCRR Parts 375 and 377.

All state and local police departments and law enforcement agencies are authorized to enforce these regulations.
This map identifies the sections of the AHET Trail currently under construction (in blue), No trail sections are open to public at this time.
Above: Construction of one of six bridges being installed along the AHET Trail. Below: Gravel subbase and retaining wall placed – however the final trail surface and safety fencing has not yet been installed (will be completed during 2020).
Above: New sidewalk under construction along Route 9 in Stuyvesant.
Below: Signage and marked crosswalks will be installed during 2020, at all locations where the trail crosses public roadways.

Anyone having questions or comments regarding the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail, including adjacent landowners that would like to schedule a field visit with Greenway staff, can contact the Greenway by using the “Submit Comment” section of the project website: www.AHETtrail.org. The Greenway monitors website comments on a daily basis.