



**Hudson River
Valley Greenway**

Albany-Hudson Electric Trail Winter 2019 Update February 26, 2019

The Hudson River Valley Greenway is creating the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail (AHET), which will be a 36-mile bicycle and pedestrian route in Rensselaer County (Towns of East Greenbush, Schodack, and Nassau; Village of Nassau; City of Rensselaer) and Columbia County (Towns of Chatham, Kinderhook, Stuyvesant, Stockport, and Greenport; Villages of Valatie and Kinderhook). The majority of the AHET Trail will be built on an abandoned rail 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. In addition, the Hudson River Valley Greenway and its consultant (Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.) are happy to conduct site visits with individual landowners seeking additional information about the AHET Trail design adjacent to their property.

Overview and Project Schedule

In December 2018, the Greenway completed its detailed engineering plans for the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail, and initiated the competitive bidding process to select construction contractors.

The Greenway bid two contracts, one for construction of the AHET Trail section in Rensselaer County, and the second for the trail in Columbia County. The Greenway opened bids on February 13, 2019:

- **Rensselaer County:** After verifying compliance with applicable technical requirements, the Greenway will award the Rensselaer County contract to **Carver Construction, Inc.** for construction of the AHET Trail in the City of Rensselaer, Towns of East Greenbush, Schodack, and Nassau, and Village of Nassau (17-mile route).
- **Columbia County:** The Greenway has sufficient funding to award construction of the AHET Trail in the Towns of Chatham, Kinderhook, and Stuyvesant, including the Villages of Valatie and Kinderhook (12-mile route). After verifying compliance with applicable technical requirements, the Greenway will award a contract to **A. Colarusso and Son, Inc.** for construction of the 12-mile section.

- The Columbia County construction bids exceeded the Greenway’s available funding for the trail sections in the Towns of Stockport and Greenport (7-mile route). The Greenway is currently evaluating options for trail construction in Stockport and Greenport, within available funding.

Selection of the construction contractors are tentative decisions, pending execution of formal contract awards, which the Greenway anticipates completing by Mid-March.

The Greenway is working with involved government partners to finalize required permits for the project. **The Greenway anticipates securing all applicable approvals by the end of March, with trail construction starting in mid-April, 2019.** National Grid will also be undertaking a maintenance project on its utility lines in selected locations this spring.

Given the 36-mile trail length, creation of the AHET Trail will require two construction seasons, with final trail completion slated for the fall of 2020.



Activities that will occur along the AHET Trail route starting this spring include:

1. **Engineering and Planning Staff (February 2019 through December 2020).** A variety of personnel will be present on the AHET Trail route over the next two years. All personnel will carry identification and generally will wear high visibility vests.
2. **Tree Clearing Activities.** Over the past year, National Grid contractors have been clearing trees and cutting vegetation along the utility corridor, as part of their normal maintenance schedule for protecting electrical lines and infrastructure. Additional tree clearing will occur through the fall of 2019, to prepare the corridor for construction of the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail.
3. **National Grid Refurbishment Project (April 2019 through October 2019).** Due to the electric infrastructure’s condition, National Grid has engaged a construction contractor to replace and relocate utility poles and guy wires at selected locations along its corridor. The refurbishment of these assets will help reliability within the service area.



4. **AHET Trail Construction (April 2019 through December 2020).** The Greenway’s construction contractors – Carver Construction in Rensselaer County; and A. Colarusso and Son in Columbia County – will begin trail construction activities in April 2019. Construction activity will *not* be continuous – rather construction work will occur intermittently at specific locations as the contractors focus on trail segments along the 36-mile route.

Individuals 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 at any time by using the “Submit Comment” section of the project website: www.AHETtrail.org. The Greenway’s planning team monitors the AHET email site on a daily basis.



Over the past 15 months, the Hudson River Valley Greenway has held more than 30 public information meetings regarding the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail, and has met individually with more than 75 adjacent property owners. We greatly appreciate the interest and engagement of local officials, residents, trail enthusiasts, and members of the public in helping plan the Trail. We look forward to continued interactions as trail construction activities begin in the spring of 2019.