Albany-Hudson Electric Trail  
Fall 2019 Update  
September 12, 2019

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](http://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 has been made over the summer. 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 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.
Rensselaer County

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

- Trail construction is underway in the Town and Village of Nassau and the Town of Schodack. Although significant progress is being made, no trail sections have been completed to date.

- Construction activities will shut down in late fall for the winter.

- Construction work, including the trail section in the Town of East Greenbush, will restart in the spring of 2020. All work will be completed by November 2020.

**Note:** The Greenway originally planned the AHET Trail in Rensselaer County would be paved asphalt in high-use sections, and a stonedust surface in lower use areas (stonedust is a finely ground limestone material). However, to enhance the trail’s durability, the Greenway has decided to install recycled asphalt millings rather than stonedust in Rensselaer County. Utilizing recycled asphalt will prevent risk of future trail erosion. Milled asphalt is similar to traditional pavement – the entire Rensselaer County section of the AHET Trail will be a paved surface.

Columbia County

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

- Trail construction is underway in the Town of Stuyvesant, Villages of Kinderhook and Valatie, Town of Kinderhook, and Town of Chatham. Although significant progress is being made, no trail sections have been completed.

- Construction activities will shut down in late fall for the winter.

- Construction work, including trail sections in the Towns of Greenport and Stockport, will restart in the spring of 2020. All work will be completed by 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).

- The Hudson River Valley Greenway is still reviewing its plans for a 2-mile section of the trail in the Town of Stockport (from Rossman Road to Stuyvesant Falls).
This map identifies the sections of the AHET Trail currently under construction (in green), and the sections that will be built in 2020 (in blue). No trail sections are open to public.
A new non-profit group has formed to support the trail in Columbia County. The mission of the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail (CFET) is to:

- Maintain the majority of the AHET Trail in Columbia County, including mowing the trail’s grass shoulders, trimming vegetation, removing any downed limbs or trees, and keeping the trail corridor clean.

- Promote public awareness of the Trail and its uses.

- Work with other organizations to link the AHET Trail with other recreational trails, parks, and historic and cultural landmarks.

In April 2019, the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail organized its first event – a cleanup day where volunteers picked up 2.5 tons of trash and debris along the AHET Trail.

CFET is seeking members and volunteers to provide financial support, participate in mowing and trail maintenance, and promote the AHET Trail. Information is available on the Columbia Friends of the Electric Trail website: https://cfetny.org.
Although clearing and site grading work is underway at a number of locations in Columbia and Rensselaer Counties, no trail segments have been completed. There is no public access to the trail corridor at this time.

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 monitors website comments on a daily basis.