



**Hudson River  
Valley Greenway**

**Hudson River Valley Greenway Policy  
Use of Electric Bicycles (E-Bikes) on the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail  
Effective July 8, 2021**

HRVG Policy

The Albany-Hudson Electric Trail (AHET) is a 36-mile bicycling and pedestrian route in Rensselaer and Columbia Counties, constructed and operated by the Hudson River Valley Greenway (HRVG). The majority of the AHET route is an off-road, improved 10 to 12-foot wide trail, with a paved asphalt or stonedust surface designed for shared use by bicyclists, walkers, and runners. The remainder of the AHET route consists of on-road sections, where the route is designated on the shoulders of public roadways.

**This HRVG policy authorizes the public to ride Class 1 and Class 2 Electric Bicycles (herein “E-Bikes) on the off-road sections of the AHET Trail, subject to the limitations described below.** E-Bike users must ride safely at all times, including slowing down when approaching other trail users, when the trail is busy, or when trail conditions dictate slow speeds. The AHET trail is open dawn to dusk only.

**Conversely, Class 3 E-Bikes and two-wheeled Electric Scooters (“E-Scooters”) are prohibited on the AHET trail.**

This policy applies to off-road sections of the AHET trail only. HRVG does not have jurisdiction over public roadways. Rather, use of E-Bikes and 2-wheeled Electric Scooters on public roads is governed by the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law and local ordinances.

Background

In April 2020, New York State enacted legislation governing the public use of “bicycles with electric assist,” typically known as “electric bicycles” or “E-Bikes”. State law now allows E-Bikes to be operated on public roadways posted with a speed limit of 30 mph or less (unless otherwise regulated by local ordinance). In addition, the law states E-Bikes are allowed on public trails if affirmatively authorized by the public entity that owns and operates a specific trail.

HRVG’s policy allowing E-Bike use on the AHET trail is consistent with policies the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the NYS Canal Corporation have adopted allowing Class 1 and Class 2 E-Bikes on the Empire State Trail and other improved “rail trails” and “canalway trails” under their jurisdictions.

## Definitions

Section 102-c of the NYS Vehicle & Traffic Law defines “bicycles with electric assist” in three classes:

- Class 1 “pedal assist” E-Bikes have no throttle, and provide electric power assistance up to 20 MPH only when the rider is pedaling;
- Class 2 E-Bikes have a throttle which can provide electric power up to 20 MPH, whether or not the rider is pedaling; and
- Class 3 E-Bikes have a throttle which can provide electric power up to 25 MPH and are prohibited anywhere in NYS outside of New York City. Accordingly, Class 3 E-Bikes are prohibited on the AHET trail.

New York State does not require E-Bikes to be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles. However, as of June 2022 all E-Bikes must have a manufacturer’s label affixed identifying the bike as either Class 1, 2, or 3 in accordance with state Vehicle & Traffic Law standards.

Two-wheeled “E-Scooters”, which the user stands on and are powered solely by an electric motor, are motorized devices which are prohibited on the AHET trail.

Note: This policy applies to the general public’s use of the AHET trail. HRVG has established a separate policy governing use of powered devices on the AHET trail by people with mobility disabilities.

Any questions regarding HRVG’s policy regarding use of E-Bikes on the AHET trail should be directed to: [EST@hudsongreenway.ny.gov](mailto:EST@hudsongreenway.ny.gov)