

Work on trail to begin

VICTORIA E. FREILE

STAFF WRITER

HENRIETTA — Construction will begin this week on the Henrietta portion of the Lehigh Valley Linear Trail.

The trail, which currently runs through Rush and Mendon, is getting a \$1.5 million makeover that will link the existing trail with the Genesee Valley Greenway. Town officials will officially break ground on the project today.

The new portion of the trail, much of it a former railroad bed, should be completed by the fall, said Henrietta Supervisor Jim Breese.

Through the project, about six miles of the Lehigh Valley Railroad corridor will be developed into a trail in Henrietta and Brighton. Federal and state funds will pay for about 80 percent of the project; Henrietta and Brighton will pay the remaining tab.

Workers will regrade and widen the trail. From the Calkins Road Professional Park to the Brighton town line, trails will double as sidewalks.

Paul Davis of Henrietta can't wait to bicycle on the trail.

"This gives anyone who wants to hike or bike access to do that, rather than walking on the side of the road, worrying about cars," said Davis, vice president of the Henrietta Foundation, which will maintain the Henrietta portion of the trail once it is finished.

Work is slated to begin this spring on the Brighton portion of the trail, said Tom Low, Brighton Commissioner of Public Works.

Another project that's under way will rehabilitate bridges along the 15-mile Lehigh Valley trail in Mendon and Rush and will resurface the trail, said David Rinaldo, deputy director of the Monroe County Parks De-

partment. That project should be completed by the end of the summer, he said.

Federal funds will pay for about 70 percent of the \$1.25 million Rush and Mendon trail project.

The county will pay for 20 percent of the project and the Mendon Foundation will fund the rest, Rinaldo said.

"We're excited about this project," Breese said. "When completed, it'll be a tremendous asset to the town."

The trail in Henrietta and Brighton will preserve open space and will give town residents another recreational outlet, Breese said.

Walkers, bikers and cross-country skiers will be welcome on the trail.

Any motorized vehicle, including snowmobiles and all-terrain vehicles, will not be permitted. □

VFREILE@DemocratandChronicle.com