

## **Appendix D | D&L Trail Visit**

## Appendix D | The D&L Trail Connection

### Site Visit to the Potential Trail Corridor between Wilkes-Barre, Ashley, and Laurel Run

The Project Team performed a site visit on November 18, 2019. The Team walked from east Ashley, under Route 309 and Interstate 81, to a point where the rail corridor was blocked—then traveled by motor vehicle from west of Ashley to Wilkes-Barre where the Team walked numerous sections of railbed up to Franklin Junction, then along the active railroad up to Market Street in Wilkes-Barre. A stop was made along Northampton Street in Laurel Run to see where the former rail line crossed the highway.

Site observations are listed below, starting in Wilkes-Barre:

1. **From Market Street to Franklin Junction**, there is potential for a rail-with-trail as long as the railroad will cooperate, as will adjacent landowners where a strip of land may be required at pinch points.
2. **From Franklin Junction through Ashley to East of Route 81**, there is potential for a rail-trail on a former rail line. Ownership must be determined along this segment. Fortunately, there are four bridges in place carrying the north and southbound lanes of both Route 309 and I-81 over the railbed.
3. **Of the portions of the former rail line east of the blockage and east of I-81**, from what could be seen, it appears that the rail line was disrupted by industrial development. More detailed research should be done to determine how to bring a trail through this section, to Laurel Run, and onto the Seven Tubs Nature Area—where the railbed is intact and under trail development east to Mountaintop.

See the attached sketch map locating these three sections of potential trail development, as well as the following photographs.



*Tight conditions for the potential rail-trail approaching Wilkes-Barre*



*Potential rail-with-trail and historic pipe bridge seen from the Blackman Street Bridge*





*Potential Rail-with-Trail closer to Ashley*



*Potential rail-trail at the I-81 southbound bridge*





*Potential rail-trail at the Route 309 bridges*



*Potential rail-trail at the I-81 northbound bridge*



Downtown Scranton / Wilkes-Barre Bicycle & Pedestrian Study



Potential rail-trail at the disturbed industrial lands

