

Plank Road

A plank road was started in Schenectady and passed through lands owned by General Electric, up Broadway Hill and along Broadway to the five corners. Then, it followed the Duanesburg Road (Route 7) to Duanesburg 's four corners. There were two tollhouses, one house located at the top of the Broadway Hill and a second one about halfway between Schenectady and Duanesburg. It was built in 1849 and operated for about thirty years.

The plank road was 10 feet wide and was built of heavy plank laid lengthwise over wooden ties. Generally these planks were about three inches thick and made from American elm, which stood up well under horse hooves and horse excrement. The charges for using the road started at approximately six pence for a one horse rig and increased with the number of horses and size of the wagon. The road was abandoned after operating 30 years and the route was again a mud road, similar to the one that existed before the plank road's construction.