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SŽDC Asked for Territorial Proceedings Decision on Three Sections of the Airport Railway Line

Správa železniční dopravní cesty (SŽDC) accelerates preparations of the project Modernization of the line Praha – Kladno with a connection to Václav Havel Airport as a reaction to challenges of dynamically developing air transport. In November, it submitted a request for a territorial proceedings decision to three partial constructions – modernizations of the sections Praha-Bubny – Praha-Výstaviště, Praha-Ruzyně – Kladno and Kladno – Kladno-Ostrovec. Tenders for elaborating documentation needed to acquire a building permit are currently being prepared for these investments. Meetings of experts concerning preparation of documents for territorial proceedings are currently under way for the section Praha-Dejvice - Praha-Veleslavín which is very demanding on implementation.

“Air transport on the Czech sky is more and more dense. Both Václav Havel Airport and the Air Navigation Services prepare important investments in their infrastructure so that connecting railway transport must not stay behind. I am pleased that we are already close to a territorial proceedings decision for several line sections which is one of the most important milestones for linear constructions. Next year will be crucial for proceedings leading to issuing building permits and I firmly believe that that we will be able to reach a reasonable compromise between public service interest and the interests of concerned terrains’ owners”, said Mr. Jiří Svoboda, Director General of SŽDC.

At present, SŽDC deals as a priority with engineering activities, seeking compromise solutions for unsolved or problematic issues especially in heavily built-up areas and rewriting plans which it reacts in to current decisions adopted by town halls of concerned city parts and the Department for Transport of the Prague Municipal Authority. The most substantial one was the approval of the tunnel option for the section Dejvice – Veleslavín which was adopted this year. The original project did not take this solution into account.

“In order to accelerate project preparation, SŽDC divided the airport railway line’s construction into seven separate constructions and deals with investment procedures for each one separately. For the time being, construction was launched only on the Negrelli viaduct. Reconstruction goes on under strict preservationists’ supervision as this important piece of work is a listed object”, explained Mr. Mojmír Nejezchleb, Deputy Director General for Infrastructure Modernization.

The railway line connecting the city centre with the airport is one of the most extensive transport constructions in the Czech Republic. All governments up to now – including the current one - attribute it the highest priority. Václav Havel Airport is still connected to the neighbouring agglomeration with a single mode of transport – the road. As a number of surveys demonstrated, it is not much appreciated among the

population as it does not satisfy current needs with its capacity anymore. Due to record-breaking operation in the Czech sky and at Václav Havel Airport and to the growth prognoses for the future, a further increase of transport intensity on all road communications concerned can be expected. Therefore, a railway connection to the airport is a necessary infrastructure response to the expected air transport development in the Czech Republic.

The objective of the project Modernization of the line Praha – Kladno with a connection to Václav Havel Airport is to transform the current railway line to a modern double-track and electrified corridor and to build a branch from Praha-Ruzyně Station to the international airport. It will be thus possible to dispatch 6 pairs of regular and fast passenger trains per hour during peaks. The city of Prague will then become one of the few metropolitan cities in Europe which will enable passengers travelling from the city centre to the airport in 30 minutes.

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