



ÚSTÍ NAD LABEM, 3 June 2019

## **SŽDC Presents the Current State of Preparations for Dresden – Prague Rapid Service**

One of the main priorities of Správa železniční dopravní cesty (SŽDC) in the field of railway infrastructure is to ensure the implementation of the governmental Programme of Railway Rapid Service Development in the Czech Republic. To assure successful preparation and implementation, intense cooperation of the state administration represented by the Ministry of Transport, SŽDC and regional and local authorities is needed. That is why the infrastructure manager prepared for this year a project of presentation meetings Current State of HSL Preparation in the Czech Republic. The first meeting took place today in Ústí nad Labem.

High-speed lines (HSL) constitute a key infrastructure for the Czech Republic in the future. While accelerating preparation and construction of high-speed lines, SŽDC has selected pilot line sections; more specifically the sections Praha-Běchovice – Poříčany (HSL POLABÍ), Přerov – Ostrava (HSL MORAVSKÁ BRÁNA – Moravian Gate) and Brno – Vranovice (HSL JIŽNÍ MORAVA – South Moravia). Based on cooperation of SŽDC and DB Netz AG on the new railway connection Dresden – Prague, two more sections followed: Praha-Vysočany – Lovosice/Litoměřice and Ústí nad Labem západ – state border Czech Republic/Germany.

All selected sections are an important contribution to current transport already. They improve railway infrastructure capacity in the given direction, thus improving transport reliability and allowing its further development. Thanks to higher capacity, trains can also ride faster as unnecessary overtaking of different categories' trains can be eliminated.

The project team working jointly with the German infrastructure manager DB Netz for the preparation of a new railway connection Dresden - Prague has been working intensely for several months now. The project will be covered by an international treaty signed by Presidents of both countries on the construction and operation of a cross-border railway connection. On the Czech side, the feasibility study for this route will be complete this July. The connection of both countries by a 26 km long Krušné hory Tunnel (Ore Mountains Tunnel) will shorten journey times between Dresden and Prague.

A complex evaluation of the first phase unambiguously recommended changing the route of the new line RS4 between Prague and Dresden so that the city of Ústí nad Labem may be serviced on the line as a new main passenger station is going to be built there for trains from all directions. In the second phase of the study, partial sub-variants of this notion are being verified and evaluated. There are several dozens of technical and operational modifications under verification, both a design of new short connecting lines, alternatives for passing the river Labe in Ústí nad Labem and introducing new lines for passenger transport.

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