

OLOMOUC, 2 July 2019

## **Electrification and Increasing Capacity Starts in August on the Uničov – Olomouc Line**

On 1 July, Správa železniční dopravní cesty (SŽDC) concluded a contract with the association of companies Subterra, OHL ŽS and EŽ Praha for the electrification and increasing capacity on the line Uničov – Olomouc. Construction works as such and related continuous line closure at Uničov will start in August; they will be completed in mid-2022. The project will acquire support of the European Union under the Operational Programme Transport 2, total investment costs will amount approximately to CZK 3.9 billion.

*"The construction's objective is especially increasing capacity of this highly used railway line, increasing maximum line speed up to 160 kph, eliminating most line speed drops, increasing railway operation and passengers' safety and last but not least, ensuring barrier-free access for passengers with limited mobility and orientation at railway station and stops",* said Mr. Jiří Svoboda, Director General of SŽDC.

Journey times of regular trains between Olomouc and Uničov will decrease to 26 or 28 minutes respectively. During peaks on working days, they will be completed by through trains which can ride between both stations even in 17 minutes. They will be using DC 3 kV traction which will be ready for future conversion of the power feeding system.

The higher line speed requirement includes total railway superstructure and substructure reconstruction. New platforms with a 550 millimetres edge height will be built at all stations and stops to allow comfortable boarding of low-decks EMU train-sets. While platforms at railway stations and at Uničov railway stop will be 110 metres long, they will be 90 metres long elsewhere. Access to newly built half-centre platforms at Bohuňovice, Šternberk and Uničov will be assured by a central overpass. All stations will be barrier-free; adaptations will also include roofing for passengers, a new information and orientation system and lighting at stations and access routes.

Preparation works are currently under way; construction works as such will be launched in August. This is also related to the planned closure start. During July, several daily closures will occur; since August, a continuous closure will start in the section Uničov – Újezd u Uničova. According to the construction works' progress, train operation will stop next year between Újezd u Uničova and Šternberk and in 2021 in the connecting section to the region capital.

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