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## **Dozens of Bridges from Prestressed Concrete Will Undergo Detailed Diagnostics**

Správa železniční dopravní cesty (SŽDC) continues checking bridges from prestressed concrete. The checks started in the final quarter of last year after the collapsing of bridge constructions both in Europe and in the Czech Republic. 167 bridges with prestressed decks on the SŽDC network, 63 from these were selected for more detailed diagnostics.

The system of administration, diagnostics and supervising activity on SŽDC railway bridges is set safely by strict internal regulations and provides sufficient assurance from unexpected development of bridges' defects with fatal consequences.

Beyond the framework of these obligations, partly as a reaction to above-mentioned problems of bridges with prestressed decks both abroad and home, SŽDC implements in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport and the State Fund for Transport Infrastructure a special programme having as objective to put all bridges with this deck type through control checks and inspections above normal standards.

*"These are exclusively preventive measures. No bridge within our administration is in such a state which could endanger railway operation in any way",* explains Mr. Jiří Svoboda, Director General of SŽDC.

Detailed diagnostics and subsequently static examination will be carried out at selected bridges. Any ascertained defects and malfunctions are being recorded and besides static examination, causes of such malfunctions will be defined as well as suggestions for necessary construction interventions or measures to be taken.

Based on inspections carried out on all 167 bridges with prestressed decks, 63 of them were designed for more detailed diagnostics and static examination. At present, individual tenders for public orders were called within the competence of SŽDC Regional Directorates. The first stage includes 36 bridges with an estimated value of public orders equalling CZK 15 million. Preliminary diagnostics' results will be at disposal at the end of this year; final reports including static assessments will be submitted up to 30 June next year at the latest. The remaining 27 bridges will be checked during the second stage which will be carried out subsequently; total costs will amount up to CZK 12 million.

Participation of renowned entities in the field satisfying requirements for professional aptitude and qualification of suppliers is expected in the tenders.

SŽDC assumes that the programme for bridges with prestressed decks will confirm their technical and operational parameters and exclude any occurrence of defects and malfunctions.

**Examples of bridges with prestressed concrete decks which will be put through diagnostics and static examination**

| km      | line                           | Region                 | Bridge length (m) | Year of construction | Note                                   |
|---------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--|
| 163.119 | Znojmo – Jihlava               | Vysočina               | 19.4              | 1963                 | Hvězdoňovice, road                     |
| 1.575   | Praha-Libeň – Praha-Holešovice | Capital City of Prague | 43.5              | 1969                 | Prague, Primátorská Street (Balabenka) |
| 3.346   | Praha-Libeň – Praha-Holešovice | Capital City of Prague | 425.45            | 1967                 | Praha-Holešovice (over Vltava River)   |
| 2.227   | Nymburk – Poříčany             | Central Bohemia        | 93.1              | 1981                 | Třebestovice, through D11              |
| 10.037  | Ústí nad Labem – Most          | Ústí nad Labem         | 599.9             | 1981                 | Chabařovice scaffold bridge            |
| 28.440  | Ústí nad Labem – Most          | Ústí nad Labem         | 49.9              | 1966                 | Želénky, road Duchcov – Želénky        |
| 31.446  | Ústí nad Labem – Most          | Ústí nad Labem         | 40.4              | 1968                 | Ledvice, road                          |
| 63.727  | Most – Chomutov                | <b>Ústí nad Labem</b>  | 76.73             | 1968                 | Chomutov                               |

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