



ČESKÉ BUDĚJOVICE, 8 November 2019

## **SŽDC Invests in the South of Bohemia into Corridor Modernization and Passenger Buildings' Repairs**

Billions of Czech crowns are currently being invested into modernization of the railway infrastructure in South Bohemia Region. Most financial resources are being directed into reconstruction of two sections of the Czech Rail Transit Corridor between Prague and České Budějovice. At the same time, Správa železniční dopravní cesty (SŽDC) prepares reconstruction of this corridor's last section leading from Ševětín to the border of the South Bohemian capital. A vast amount of financial resources is also designed for repairs of passenger buildings; next year, construction works will start e.g. at České Budějovice Main Station, in Tábor or Veselí nad Lužnicí.

A key importance for the South Bohemia Region is attributed especially to the modernization of the railway connection between České Budějovice and Prague. During last year, reconstruction of the line section Sudoměřice - Votice on the border of this region neighbouring with Central Bohemia Region was launched. The current section – single-track up to now – will be mostly replaced by a new construction of a double-track line which will allow increasing trains' speed up to 160 kph. This will bring shorter journey times of express trains between Prague and Tábor to a duration of one hour. The most important constructions are two tunnels (Deboreč and Mezno); the closed railway stop will be replaced by Červený Újezd Station. Construction works will be completed in 2022 and will cost CZK 7.1 billion.

Modernization of the last but one section of the above-mentioned corridor between Soběslav and Doubí was launched in September 2019 and should be completed in April 2023. For a price of CZK 4.3 billion, a new line will be built almost in the whole section, mostly parallel to the D3 motorway. This will allow a line speed increase up to 160 kph, prospectively up to 200 kph. Adding a second track will result in higher capacity and the necessity of trains crossing each other at Soběslav and Roudná will be eliminated.

As far as repairs of passenger buildings are concerned, a reconstruction of the passenger building at Strakonice Station for a price of CZK 52 million is currently under way. The project implementation includes complete repairs of the building where all internal installations necessary for the station safe operation are being innovated as well as the truss and roofing. A modern barrier-free and spacious hall as a waiting and dispatching room will be built for passengers together with sale premises with newspapers and refreshments, cash desks for railway carriers and last but not least, sanitary facilities with barrier-free lavatories. The passenger building is part of a transfer terminal so that it will serve passengers both in railway and in bus transport.

Next May, reconstruction of the passenger building at České Budějovice Main Station should be launched approximately for a period of 2.5 years for a price of CZK 580 million. It will be a complex reconstruction of a listed building including connected ground wings under Platform No 1, more specifically the facade, the roof and interior premises. New access to the building will be opened to Lann's Avenue and will be connected to a modernized background for passengers and the commercial area. Together with the passenger building's reconstruction, adjoining external premises will be revitalized with a new parking for passengers on wheelchairs, a supplying area and a biketower.

During next year, repairs of other important passenger buildings at South Bohemian railway stations will be launched; more specifically at Veselí nad Lužnicí, Písek or Tábor. In Písek, a new railway stop Písek-jih will be opened this year to make travelling by train more attractive for inhabitants in a part of this South Bohemian city.

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