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## **The Railway to Ruzyně Airport Project Has Its First Territorial Decision**

Správa železniční dopravní cesty (SŽDC) achieved an important progress in preparation of the Prague – Kladno line modernization with a connection to Václav Havel Airport. It acquired a territorial decision for the line section Kladno – Kladno-Ostrovec and already prepares documentation for a building permit. Within this step of the building permit acquisition procedure, the investor wants to cooperate with the Kladno City Hall especially on the shape of the Kladno město railway stop. Modernization of the line consists especially in building a second track and adapting railway stations and stops.

*"If we do not take the finishing reconstruction of Negrelli viaduct into account, the Kladno section is the first one which we acquired a territorial decision for within preparations for a railway line leading to the airport. This is an important milestone for the whole investment because if all goes well, we will choose a construction supplier in 2021 and the section could be finished two years later. At the same time, we made considerable progress in the permit acquisition procedure for two more sections so that the line to the airport starts acquiring a realistic shape",* said Mr. Jiří Svoboda, Director General of SŽDC.

*"I would like to stress this construction's assets for inhabitants of Kladno and the surrounding communities. The modernized line and accompanying investments will improve the whole locality's transport connection considerably. Cyclists will be satisfied as well as they will be able to park up to 84 bicycles on the bike + ride parking (B+R) in the immediate vicinity of Kladno město station. Thanks to cooperation with the city and other partners, the project is also coordinated with the planned cycle path Kladno – Praha-Bubny,"* said Mr. David Ježek, Chief Engineer of the railway project for the line to Václav Havel Airport.

The construction designated as Modernization of the line Kladno (included) – Kladno-Ostrovec (included) will increase safety and travelling comfort considerably as well as transport servicing of the region. All stations and stops will be barrier-free, railway crossings will be replaced by grade-separated crossings and the line will be equipped with modern signalling installations. The investment includes building two P+R parking places with almost 300 places at Kladno Station.

The project of the railway line to the airport includes several partial constructions which are currently in various phases of the permit acquisition procedure. Reconstruction of the Negrelli viaduct is under way, territorial proceedings is going on for the sections Praha-Ruzyně – Kladno and Praha-Bubny – Praha-Výstaviště. In the second case, a territorial decision not yet in force has been issued. As far as the remaining sections are concerned, preparation of documentation for territorial proceedings is under way.

Modernization of the line Praha – Kladno with a connection to Václav Havel Airport is one of the biggest transport projects in the Czech Republic and represents the necessary infrastructure's answer to the expected development of air transport. Modernization of the last Prague suburban line will rank our capital and the city of Kladno among modern European agglomerations with a railway connection to the airport.

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