

PRAGUE, 13 July 2023

Braník Bridge will soon receive second track

Expected capacity increase of the Braník Bridge (Branický most) is in sight. Vltava railway bridging, which is mainly used by freight trains, will be double-tracked in a year. This will also help during the planned reconstruction of the bridge at Výtoň. The opening ceremony of the more than two billion investment of Správa železnic took place today at the Praha-Braník station. The complete disruption of operation on the bridge will take place between 20 October and April next year.

"Railway in the capital must offer sufficient capacity also for freight trains. In addition, the freight link over the Braník Bridge will start to play a more important role in Prague's integrated transport. This is one of our concrete steps to promote environmentally friendly passenger and freight transport," says Minister of Transport Martin Kupka.

"The double-tracking of the Braník Bridge was one of our priorities. That is why I am glad that in a very short time we were able to advance from the preparatory phase directly to implementation. Moreover, when selecting the contractor, we emphasised that the proposed period of interruption of traffic on the bridge should be as short as possible," explains Director General of Správa železnic Jiří Svoboda. He adds that the construction will enable the diversion of trains between the Main and Smíchov railway stations during the planned reconstruction of the bridges at Výtoň.

The main scope of work will be the construction of the second track from Braník Bridge to Praha-Krč station. At the same time, a new Spořilov branch line will be built, which will allow trains to switch from one track to another. The project also includes the rehabilitation of the Braník Bridge, the construction of a new bridging of Údolní Street and the construction of technological buildings in Krč and Spořilov.

"We are facing a specific task where we need to complete a large scope of work in an extremely short time. After discussion with Správa železnic, we have proposed a change in the construction schedule that will enable us to meet the timeframe of the contract. We are pleased to be with the experienced team of our contractors' association on this prestigious transport project, which will support the smooth running of rail traffic in the capital," notes Aleš Gothard, director of the company Metrostav TBR, the leader of the contractors' association, whose other members are the companies PORR, Elektrizace železnic Praha and GJW Praha.

Total investment costs of the project called *Double-tracking of the line Branický most – Praha-Krč – Spořilov* amount to CZK 2,705,265,000. The project has been approved by the European Union for co-financing from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). The total amount of eligible project costs is CZK 1,717,829,705. The rate of EU support is 85% of the eligible costs, so the maximum amount of the grant is EUR 60,873,872, i.e., approximately CZK 1.46 billion.

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