

PRAGUE, 13 February 2024

## **Work on Smíchov begins, metropolis will get another modern railway station**

The railway in the metropolis is undergoing an unprecedented transformation. Work is in full swing between Bubny and the new stop at Výstaviště, and extensive reconstruction of the historic Masaryk railway station has begun. In addition, today Správa železnic festively launched the complete reconstruction of the station Praha-Smíchov. In about three years, it will get a completely new look and will also become part of a modern transfer terminal. Passengers will appreciate not only barrier-free access to trains and platforms, but also better connections to public transport as well as to the surrounding development. The total cost of the construction will reach CZK 5.1 billion, the construction of the footbridge will cost CZK 314 million. Most of the funding will come from European funds.

*"Smíchov railway station is of particular importance for train connections from the metropolis to the west of Bohemia. Until now, it has retained its appearance from the middle of the last century. That's about to change radically. A modern station will be built to meet current requirements, and it will also be part of the transport terminal. Passengers will be able to get not only to trams and metro, but also to suburban and long-distance buses,"* says Minister of Transport Martin Kupka.

Handover of the site is scheduled for the beginning of March. The builders will modernise all the existing platforms, including the roofing. A completely new platform will be built for trains in the direction to Praha-Zličín and Hostivice. Passengers will gain barrier-free access from both reconstructed pedestrian underpasses, which will also be extended under the entire station.

*"The completion of the construction will bring an increase in the capacity of this frequent station. It will create a modern and more capacious public space that will be well connected not only to public transport but also to the surrounding development. All this, of course, in a barrier-free form,"* describes Jiří Svoboda, Director General of Správa železnic. He adds that the project envisages a connection to the planned three-track line in the direction of the main station.

*"The bus terminal will become an integral part of the site and we have also coordinated the project with Správa železnic in order to find as many synergies as possible during the preparation of the construction as well as during the works and subsequent operation. Thanks to this, we will offer a comfortable transfer between different modes of transport not only to Prague residents. In addition, we will build a capacious parking house here,"* states the Mayor of Prague Bohuslav Svoboda.

As part of the parallel construction, a new footbridge will also be built into Radlická Street, from which access to individual platforms will be provided. At the same time, preparatory work will be carried out for the planned reconstruction of the station building.

The construction will be carried out during operation, requiring only certain restrictions on passenger movements in the station. They will also use the temporary platforms for getting on the trains.

*"The reconstruction of the busy railway station Praha-Smíchov in full operation is a major task in itself. We will have to pay special attention to coordination with other investors who are implementing projects in the immediate vicinity of the station. This is an unusual situation requiring meticulous planning and coordination. We are pleased to be part of a project that will significantly change the look and functionality of this place,"* said Aleš Gothard, Director General of the company Metrostav TBR, the leader of the contractors' association.

The works will last until 2027. The construction contractors are the companies Metrostav TBR, OHLA ŽS, Elektrizace železnic Praha and Hochtief CZ.

The implementation of the project Reconstruction of the railway station Prague-Smíchov is co-financed by the European Union from the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF). *"In the twenty years of our membership of the European Union, many areas of everyday life have developed. Thanks to hundreds of billions of euros of European investment in infrastructure modernisation, railway travel has reached European standards. Passengers and also entrepreneurs benefit from our connection to modern trans-European networks on a daily basis. I believe that the new station in Smíchov will confirm this trend. All those who commute here daily will certainly appreciate it,"* adds Václav Lebeda, spokesman for the Representation of the European Commission in the Czech Republic.

The total amount of eligible project costs is CZK 3,989,544,295. The EU support rate is 83.4% of the eligible costs and the maximum subsidy amount is CZK 3,327,279,942. National funding is provided by Státní fond dopravní infrastruktury (State Fund for Transport Infrastructure).



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