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## **The Joint Venture of companies Dúha – ZUE finished the reconstruction of tram tracks in Košice**

**Košice, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 – The reconstruction works of IKD (Integrated Tram Transport) in Košice have been finished. The route from Námestie Maratónu mieru to Staničné námestie is fully opened to automobile transport. The reconstruction took 14 months and the results are modern and safe tram tracks.**

The Joint Venture Dúha – ZUE started the reconstruction in August 2014. “The reconstruction of the tram tracks from Námestie Maratónu mieru to Train Station Square (Staničné námestie) took lot of work, burdened the city traffics, but this resulted in completely new tram tracks – less noisy, more comfortable and the most important - safer. Thanks to the new grass areas, that take more than half of the 3.3 km long route, they also made the city more beautiful,” evaluated Miroslav Remeta the owner of Dúha a. s. He added that since the last August the constructors worked also on exchange of the track base and within this the renovation of the utility networks as gas, electricity, water pipes, optical cables and protection and exchange of the sewerage. “These networks were dated to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century so their exchange was necessary,” added M. Remeta.

After the underground works the Joint Venture of Dúha – ZUE prepared exchange and adjusting of the above ground tram tracks. There were added new tracks, traction circuit for the whole route and also grass carpets nearby the tracks. The works went through simultaneously on the whole route, from the Námestie Maratónu mieru and Hviezdoslavova street, through Kuzmányho street, Štúrova street, Senný trh, Štefánikova street till the Train Station Square (Staničné námestie) where there will be possible line-up for tram trains (in the appendix there are photos of each part of the route before and after the reconstruction).

Within the reconstruction Dúha-ZUE reconstructed also crossings and crossovers and modernized traffic lights. “Within the project we installed also protecting, safety and barrier free equipment for disabled people,” explained M. Remeta. He added that they modernized and exchanged also all the platforms.

At the end of the reconstruction, during the September, association installed surveillance system connected to the traffic control system of Košice city, built new shelters for travelling people, and installed LCD monitors that will provide accurate information about the departure of the trams.

All the construction works were finished and from the point of view of the transportation all the passages, except of the Train Station Square (Staničné námestie), were able to use during the Košice Peace Marathon (Medzinárodný maratón mieru) and the construction of IKD had no impact on the traffic in the city.

“We made all the necessary functional tests of the track routes during the September and October and they were confirmed by the final test with the tram that was trying the routes on September 25<sup>th</sup> 2015. We made the whole reconstruction according to the project and we finished it within the deadline that was 14 months from the beginning on the October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2015. Despite of the minor changes of the date of finishing we managed to finish all the construction works within the limit of the contract,” explained M. Remeta.

The route from Námestie Maratónu mieru till Train Station Square (Staničné námestie) is fully opened to the automobile transport. All the works were finished on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and at the present the Joint Venture finishes the last transfer procedure with the representatives of the investors and construction supervision also with the administrator of the networks. Construction companies Dúha – ZUE would also like to thank all the citizens of Košice city. “We want to thank all the citizens and visitors of Košice for the patience, our partners and colleagues for cooperation and well done work. We believe that the reconstruction was the right step towards the modern and safe city of Košice,” added M. Remeta.

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*DÚHA a.s. was established in 1989. In 1995 DÚHA started to establish joint ventures with investors to develop and operate environmental plants and acquired ownership of the investment projects. Today the company is one of the largest construction companies in Slovakia. Presently they implement major construction projects, such as the reconstruction of tram tracks in Košice as part of in the Integrated Rail Transport project, the reconstruction, extension and addition to the Children's Faculty Hospital in Košice, construction of the Ovčiarsko tunnel as part of D1 motorway section of Hričovské podhradie – Lietavská Lúčka, reconstruction of a number of fire stations, construction of the public sewer and waste water treatment plant in Spišské Podhradie, construction of the D1 motorway section of Lietavská Lúčka - Višňové - Dubná Skala, and other major projects.*

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