

Višňové tunnel under construction

Višňové, June 9th, 2015. **At the construction site of the longest Slovak Tunnel of Višňové the bishop of Žilina - Mons. Tomáš Galis consecrated the tunnel and the representatives of the National Motorway Company together with representatives of Salini Impregilo and Dúha consortium installed a statue of St. Barbara. "To date, we have bored approximately 80 meters of the tunnel at each side. We are pleased that we are in line or even ahead of the schedule of this extremely challenging construction project" said Miroslav Remeta, the owner of Dúha, a.s.**

The respective section of the D1 motorway is located in Žilina self-governing region, in the districts of Žilina and Martin. The tunnel starts near the village of Višňové and ends in the cadastral territory of the town of Vrútky. The construction contract was signed on June 11 2014. The construction period is set to 2010 days, i.e. **5.5 years** after the work is commenced. The groundbreaking ceremony took place almost a year ago on 17 June 2014. Presently, all major works follow a contracted schedule and the construction should be completed **by the end of 2019**.

The D1 motorway section of Lietavská Lúčka – Višňové - Dubná Skala

The construction will comprise a number of works, the most important of which include one tunnel, 8 bridges and one flyover junction. The Višňové tunnel, with two separate tunnel tubes with the total length of more than 15 kilometres will be one of the longest tunnels in Slovakia. The D1 motorway section of Lietavská Lúčka – Višňové - Dubná Skala will be 13.43 km long, part of which will also be the Turie rest area to be built on the left side of the road. There will be 5 bridges on the motorway route. The longest bridge will be nearly one kilometre long with **the pillar height of 40 m**.

The Višňové tunnel

The speed limit in the tunnel will be **100 km/h**. The maximum slope of the tunnel will be 2.9%. From its highest point to its eastern portal the tunnel **descends 154 m in total**. The exploratory bore situated in the centre between the two tunnel tubes will be maintained for rock mass drainage purposes.

The tunnel boring

The first one hundred meters from both sides will be bored by the end of June 2015, which corresponds to the first milestone of the Contract for Work concluded with the National Motorway Company. In the next 30 months the contractor is obliged to complete boring of both tunnel tubes. The tunnel will have three pipes, one of which already exists. It is an exploratory bore which will serve as tunnel drainage. Presently boring is going on in three out of four bore faces (front part of the tunnel), which is ahead of the schedule to achieve the first contract milestone.

Section description

The D1 motorway section of Lietavská Lúčka – Višňové - Dubná Skala begins at the Lietavská Lúčka intersection where the section connects directly to the previous D1 motorway section of Hričovské Podhradie - Lietavská Lúčka as part of the Žilina bypass. Through the planned slip road the intersection will allow the D1 motorway to be connected with the town of Žilina and the I/64 road, direction Rajec. After the junction the motorway route progresses eastward, crosses the cadastral areas of Porúbka, Rosina and Višňové to enter the actual tunnel of Višňové. It passes underneath the hill of Hoblík and after more than seven kilometres the tunnel emerges at the junction of Dubna Skala and connects, in the full profile, to the next D1 section of Dubná Skala - Turany.

Benefits of the construction

Building the section will allow the traffic to be diverted from the I/18 road in the urban and suburban areas of the town of Žilina. **Thanks to that drivers will avoid traffic jams under the castle of Strečno. The road from Žilina to Martin will be shortened by about 15 minutes. In addition to saving time and fuel, increasing the traffic safety and flow and reducing the accident rate, the new motorway will also mitigate the negative effects on the quality of life of citizens and the environment.**

Construction funding

The project is funded by the European Union and the state budget. The value of the building contract is 409.8 million euros. The investor is the National Motorway Company and the contractor is Salini Impregilo – Dúha joint venture, part of which are the Italian supranational company Salini Impregilo S.p.A. and the Slovak company DÚHA, a.s.

Salini Impregilo is an international industrial company with more than century-old history, specializing in the construction of major, unique, complex projects - large water works and power stations, bridges, tunnels, airports and motorways. Operating in over 50 countries with nearly 35,000 employees, the company is a global player in the construction sector and the leading global infrastructure company in the water segment. Currently, for instance, it is building motorways in Poland and Nigeria, a major hydro power plant in Turkey and the Dugway Storage Tunnel in the USA. Their most important projects include major construction projects, airports, bridges and power plants in South America, the construction of a new channel in the Panama Canal or a system of motorways and a bridge over the Bosphorus in Turkey.

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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