

Ethiopia**Expressway Development Support Project****Chair Summary*****May 19, 2015**

Executive Directors approved a credit to Ethiopia for the Ethiopia Expressway Development Support Project (IDA/R2015-0093) in the amount of SDR 262.9 million (US\$370 million equivalent) on the terms and conditions set out in the President's Memorandum. The Minutes will reflect that Mr. Sheets wished to be recorded as abstaining.

Directors expressed support for the project objectives to enhance efficient and safe movement of goods and people along a key development corridor in the country, and strengthen institutional capacity for highway management. They emphasized the potential value of enhanced trade and transportation services to promote regional integration, while reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity. Directors also noted the technical assistance to support the introduction of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), "the Safe System" for enhancing road safety, and safer and efficient design approaches for expressways, which will support the long term objective of providing safe and efficient employment generating opportunities. The importance of sustainable job creation for youth and the local rural poor was particularly underlined, as was the potential role of the private sector.

Directors welcomed the Bank's constructive engagement to enhance cooperation with the other financiers supporting this project and encouraged efforts to minimize possible cost overruns. They nonetheless acknowledged the coordination and safeguards risks, and encouraged careful attention to the implementation of the safeguards instruments, underscoring the need for very close donor coordination and supervision. Directors also highlighted the importance of close monitoring and evaluation as well as efforts to build the implementation and monitoring capacity of the Ethiopian Roads Authority in order to achieve and protect the long term goals of the project.

*This summary is not an approved record.