




FOURTH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE ABIDJAN-LAGOS HIGHWAY ECOWAS COMMISSION, ABUJA - NIGERIA

COMMUNIQUE

1. The fourth meeting of the Steering Committee of the Abidjan-Lagos Corridor Highway Project was held on 28th February, 2014 at the Headquarters of the ECOWAS Commission in Abuja, Nigeria.
2. The meeting was convened by the Steering Committee through the Chairman, Honorable Minister of Works of Nigeria, **Arc. Mike O. ONOLEMEMEN**.
3. The meeting was called following the briefing of the Heads of State and Governments (HOSG) of Member States involved in the Project (Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin and Nigeria) at the margins of the Twenty-Second (22nd) Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on 30th January, 2014, where the Chairman of the Committee reported progress of the project to the Heads of State and Governments and obtained further approvals on the studies and funding proposals.
4. This Meeting was attended by the following Infrastructure/Works and Justice Ministers or their duly mandated Representatives:
 - Republic of Benin;
 - Republic Côte d'Ivoire;
 - Republic of Ghana;
 - Federal Republic of Nigeria;
 - Togolese Republic.
5. The Steering Committee considered three presentations from Africa Finance Corporation, Roughton International and Osprey Investments Limited, for consultancy services covering transaction, technical advisory and private sector funds mobilization, respectively. The Steering Committee underscored the following:
 - a) The availability of local knowledge and content of the service providers will be key in the selection of consultants
 - b) Proposals should cover social, cultural and environmental aspects of developing communities' infrastructure along the corridor.

Mike O. Onolememen

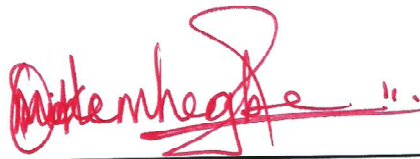
- c) The expected timelines for the various components must be clearly indicated, in view of the duration envisaged by the Presidents and Heads of State for the highway construction.
6. The 4th Steering Committee Meeting considered and deliberated on issues as follows:
- a) Outcome of the Presidential Briefing in Addis Ababa
 - b) Presentations by Transaction and Technical Advisory Services;
 - c) Joint Funding Request to the African Development Bank (AfDB);
 - d) Modalities for \$50m seed and commitment fund for project implementation;
 - e) Feasibility and Detailed design studies & the description of Project Lots
7. Regarding the Presidential briefing on the margins of the last African Union Summit, in Addis Ababa, the Chairman informed members that three key prayers were submitted for consideration and approval as follows:
- a) Approve and initial the Draft Treaty as full commitment of Member States towards this project; the Abidjan – Lagos Corridor Project;
 - b) Approve and initial the Joint request for the AfDB provision of the \$16,678,500.80 towards the Detailed Design Studies; and
 - c) Approve and authorize the release of the sum of USD50m for the actual start of the Detailed Design Studies and to cover for the meeting expenses for the next two years.
8. At the end of the briefing, the Presidents approved the Treaty for signing by the respective Member States. The joint request to be submitted to the African Development Bank was also approved for signature of the respective Authorities in Member States. The third prayer relating to the contribution of seed funds was also approved with its contribution modalities expected to be finalized during the ECOWAS Summit in Yamoussoukro. The Presidents finally directed the immediate commencement of the feasibility and detailed design studies.
9. Regarding the proposals and presentations received from the potential advisory services providers, the Steering Committee observed that the process of fast-tracking the selection of consultants was necessary to meet the deadlines for constructing the project as directed by the Presidents. In cognizance of the need to get the technical advisory inputs in the TORs for the projects studies and designs, the Steering Committee mandated the ECOWAS Commission to issue a Letter of Intent to Roughton International to commence their technical advisory role for the Project. The Steering Committee requested its Members to review all the proposals submitted by the advisory service providers. Their comments and observations will be discussed and considered at the 5th Steering Committee meeting to be held in Cotonou, Benin.



10. Regarding the Joint Funding Request to the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the feasibility studies and the signing of the approved Treaty, the Steering Committee agreed that both documents will be presented to the Presidents at the ECOWAS Summit in March, 2014 at Yamoussoukro, Cote d'Ivoire.
11. The next meeting of the Steering Committee will be held in Cotonou, in the Republic of Benin from **17th to 18th March, 2014**.
12. Lastly, the Ministers' Meeting expresses its profound gratitude to **His Excellency, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan**, the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Government and People of Nigeria for the warm welcome and authentic African hospitality extended to it during its stay in Abuja. The Ministers also extended their felicitations to the Government and good People of Nigeria on their Centenary Celebrations.

Done at Abuja, this day 28th of February 2014

The Chairman



**Arc Mike ONOLEMEMEN
For the Steering Committee**