The journey-time between Gundewein and Mekane Selam, two towns located at approximately 2660 m a.s.l. in the Ethiopian Highlands, has been cut by more than 75% by the construction of 129 km of mountain road and a 300 m long bridge. The bridge is across the Blue Nile and 58 km of this new road descends and ascends the steep sides of the 1300 m deep Blue Nile gorge on an alignment with a cumulative rise and fall of over 2500 m over a straight-line distance of 21 km. The terrain is separated by sheer cliffs, with extensive deposits of colluvium, taluvium and rafted rock debris. Geohazards include large-scale rock toppling, rock falls, deep-seated and slow lateral slip, and debris flows. The research described in this paper was carried out by the Ethiopian Roads Authority on behalf of the government of Ethiopia. Further details can be found at https://doi.org/10.1007/s10064-015-0724-y and https://doi.org/10.1144/qjegh2018-058.