How Can Countries Grow their Rapid Transit Infrastructure?

1. Increase Funding, Make it Stable and Predictable
Many countries are spending less than 0.10% of GDP per capita on transit. Increasing to even 0.15% of GDP spent on transit would yield massive infrastructure gains. Consistent, reliable funding would allow authorities to make effective long-term plans.

2. Give Cities the Power
City-level governments are the most directly accountable to the users of transit. When cities control the funds, have legal authority, and have the technical capacity to plan, design and build projects, the result is more, and better, rapid transit at a lower cost than regional or national governments.

3. Ensure Cost-Effectiveness of High Quality Transit
Countries should invest more in transit that gives their cities the biggest bang for the buck, such as BRT, and cycling lanes, and less in expensive and limited metro systems and rail.

4. Finance More Infrastructure Using Debt
Debt-finance allows cities to grow the infrastructure quicker, incentivizes better oversight and project quality, and allows the taxpayers that benefit from a project to pay for it.

5. Better Credit Ratings Mean More Money for Rapid Transit
Cities should focus on improving their credit ratings for greater access to, and efficiency of, the lenders and bond markets needed to finance rapid transit.