

better connections to jobs. In addition to creating vibrant communities, transit-oriented development can also provide transit agencies with the opportunity to capitalize on the benefits they create through value capture and real estate development, which can yield new and flexible sources of funding. This type of smart planning and growth should be incentivized through any new transit title.



### **Building Big**

***Principle 7: Build big, nationally and regionally significant projects in rural, suburban, and urban communities.***

America has long been a global leader in bold, visionary transportation projects. Whether it was building the Interstate Highway System, constructing the Transcontinental Railroad, or connecting the globe through flight, the U.S. has the innovative spirit and ingenuity to build a world-class, leading-edge transportation system. However, in recent years, our unwillingness to invest has hurt this ability—and the World Economic Forum now ranks U.S. infrastructure just 12<sup>th</sup> globally. A new transit title must include investments in nationally and regionally significant projects that are too costly for any one entity or agency to take on without federal assistance. By investing in consequential projects in rural, suburban, and urban areas, we can take steps towards again building the best transportation system in the world.



### **Investing in Innovation**

***Principle 8: Invest in innovations that support safe, reliable, efficient and environmentally-friendly transit systems.***

Research, development, and deployment of innovative technology allows us to build on the benefits of public transportation and train the next generation of the transportation workforce. Whether it's new technology to make bus rapid transit more efficient, creation of consensus-based industry standards and best practices, designing the next generation of low- or no-emission vehicles, or investing in intelligent transportation systems to improve operations, developing and deploying new innovations can streamline and modernize our transit systems. Investing in research and development also helps to train the next generation of transportation professionals and ensures that our transit agencies can hire a workforce equipped for the challenges of tomorrow. Any transit title should include support for the research, development, and deployment of new technology and innovations.



### **Improving Disaster Response and Prevention**

***Principle 9: Improve disaster response by funding the Public Transportation Emergency Relief program.***

Since 1956, dedicated federal aid has been available for the repair and reconstruction of highways damaged in a natural disaster. Until 2012, however, no such program existed for transit systems. Since the creation of the Public Transportation Emergency Relief program in MAP-21, no regular, dedicated funding has been provided to the program. In order to effectively respond to disasters, a transit title must provide regular, recurring funding to the program to ensure FTA's ability to provide swift assistance when needed. The legislation must also take steps to mitigate the impacts of disasters, including improving transit system resiliency, to ensure the safety and mobility of transit riders.