

News Release

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MTF Honored With Two National Awards

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation announced today it has received two prestigious national awards from the Governmental Research Association for the Foundation's work on the state fiscal crisis and capital spending at the MBTA.

The Foundation won two of the three 2002 awards for research on state issues given annually by the GRA, which encompasses more than 50 independent state and local public policy groups. MTF has now earned seven awards in the past seven years, a record unmatched by any other organization in the 65-year history of GRA's annual awards competition.

The Foundation's work on the state's fiscal crisis, under the leadership of senior research associate Cam Huff, was recognized for "Most Effective Public Education." Beginning with its January 2001 report, *The Perfect Storm*, the Foundation has devoted extensive resources to documenting the causes and extent of the state's fiscal problems and making a series of recommendations for addressing the large budget shortfalls.

The second award, for "Distinguished Research," honored the Foundation's report, *MBTA Capital Spending: Derailed by Expansion?*, prepared by senior policy associate Glen Tepke with important contributions from the Pioneer Institute for Public Policy Research. The report concluded that the MBTA cannot pay for expansion projects without risking its new fiscal independence. A 1999 MTF report, *The Third Rail: Financing the MBTA*, previously won a GRA award for special achievement.

"These awards reflect the Foundation's seven decades of commitment to high quality research and analysis of important statewide public policy issues," said MTF President Michael J. Widmer.

The Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization that conducts research on state and local taxes, government spending, and the economy. Founded in 1932, MTF ranks among the largest and most effective organizations of its kind in the country. The GRA awards in previous years recognized MTF reports on business costs in Massachusetts, the Commonwealth's capital funding shortfall, the financing of the Central Artery project, managing state budget surpluses, and the cost impact of Question 5, the universal health care proposal rejected by voters in 2000.
