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Judge Sets Oct. 26 for Decision on Consent Decree Appeal

(Oct. 19, 2006) Federal Judge Terry Hatter heard arguments in U.S. District Court, today, by lawyers representing Metro and the Bus Riders Union and set Oct. 26 as the day he will issue a ruling on the Consent Decree.

ACLU lawyers, acting for the BRU, have requested a four-year extension of the Consent Decree, and have filed another motion seeking to impose “civil contempt sanctions” against Metro for alleged failure to meet the Special Master’s order to comply with bus passenger load factors.

The Consent Decree is set to expire on Sunday, Oct. 29.

In court today, Metro’s attorneys said the agency had complied at every point with the 27 or more requirements of the Consent Decree and had fulfilled its obligations.

In complying with decree orders, they said Metro made efforts and introduced innovations that significantly improved operating service and customer comfort and safety.

The attorneys noted that the American Public Transportation Association had named Metro its 2006 Outstanding Public Transportation System Achievement Award winner.

Hatter, who has overseen implementation of the federal Consent Decree for the past 10 years, earlier declined to appoint a replacement when Judge Donald Bliss resigned his longtime post as Special Master.

