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## Judge Denies BRU Motion to Extend Portions of Consent Decree

(Nov. 28, 2006) U.S. District Judge Terry Hatter has denied the Bus Riders Union's latest – and perhaps final – motion to amend a court order and extend portions of the federal Consent Decree.

In an order dated Nov. 21, Hatter refused to reconsider his Oct. 24 order allowing the 10-year-old Consent Decree to expire on schedule, but giving him jurisdiction until Nov. 30, 2010 over Metro's New Service Plan. That plan involves implementation of additional Metro Rapid lines.

The BRU's motion claimed that it would be necessary to extend sections of the Consent Decree pertaining to new bus service, the Joint Working Group, the Special Master and attorney's fees.

Attorneys for Metro argued that the BRU had presented no new evidence to the court, that the original order was correct, and that there had been no changes in the law that would require the judge to reconsider his order.

"Looking at the totality of the circumstances, there was no basis for reconsideration," said Assistant County Counsel Charles Safer. "We'll proceed with implementing the New Service Plan as Metro had intended to (and will) carry out the spirit of the Consent Decree."

