

Milton's MBTA Protest in Judge's Hands

Suffolk Superior Court Judge Frank W. Tomasello took under advisement Wednesday a suit filed by the town of Milton aimed at blocking the MBTA's plan for a \$12.8 million rapid transit expansion from Ashmont to Mattapan through Milton.

The town has fought the proposed project on the grounds it is contrary to the authority's master plan of 1966 and that the authority failed to confer, as the law requires, with other state agencies before proceeding with plans.

At the end of the three-day hearing, which previously had been postponed at the request of the MBTA, Milton Town Counsel Robert J. O'Leary charged that the

line was: "an attempt to shove this horrendous program down the throats of the people of Milton and Mattapan."

He continued: "The time has come to put a stop to the MBTA running this great transportation system by crisis."

O'Leary charged that the "MBTA, by its general manager, undertakes such projects as this \$12.8 million extension 'without giving it proper study.'"

MBTA General Counsel Edward J. McLaughlin argued that the authority did act within its powers in submitting the plan to the MBTA Advisory Board and that if there any errors in submitting the plan, they

were wiped out by a letter sent last month by Gov. Volpe to the authority approving the extension.

The letter was addressed to Judge Charles Cabot, chairman of the MBTA directors.

O'Leary said the extension will serve only 3000 persons and "will not promote the economic and social welfare of the community as required by the MBTA statute."