

Transcript of interview between Mayor John Hieftje and Jim Blow, moderator for CTN "Conversations". November 23, 2011. (Timestamp from 27 minutes to near end)

JB: In the next 6 months to a year, are there other projects that you're looking forward to to make Ann Arbor more special for the citizens?

JH: Everything has been falling in place for our community to have much better rail access. Michigan has been awarded and now there are close to \$400M to spend on rail improvements of stations and tracks and the Fuller Road Station will be on council's docket and that has incredible promise for the city...

JB: It's one of those issues that seem to be dividing people...

JH: Yes, like the police/courts building. That again wasn't a cleavage along the lines that people try to say there might be a cleavage. I don't think this will be either, I think this will be a different type of a ...(unintelligible)

JB: What are the next steps?

JH: The city and the University are still talking and the conversation got a little convoluted because we were already awarded the first stage of federal funding. So we already have that and once we get through these steps, the second stage will come along, and that's the way things should work out. So that has meant to re-think this relationship.

JB: Is that full Federal and State money? Or will there be some city money?

JH: There will need to be a match for the \$40-some million of Federal money for the build-out of the the train station. And that match will be provided for the University. The plan is that the city puts no money into this.

JB: We hope to make sure that the citizens are updated...since this project has been in the news and it's ongoing.

JH: We'd love to talk about it. We've had something like about 30 presentations on it around the community, but the more we can do, the better.