

## Amy Ford-Wagner

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**From:** John Bond <ewabond@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 25, 2016 7:26 PM  
**To:** Brian Gibson; dhardy@ampo.org; bkeyrouze@ampo.org; lboyagian@ampo.org; rfarbman@ampo.org; Amy Ford-Wagner; Randolph Sykes  
**Subject:** HART Rail Architect Says Project "nothing short of a crime" "huge mistake."

Last week, HART's chief architect, Ken Caswell, left the project after seven and a half year.

Caswell told PBN that HART is entering a "perilous time" and HART said it had no immediate plans to fill the position.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/pacific/news/2016/03/25/one-of-rail-s-first-architects-speaks-out-about.html>

PBN talked to one of the rail project's first architects, [Douglas Tilden](#), about his year-long experience on the project and why he left.

"There were so many light rail systems that could be emulated," Tilden told PBN in a phone call. "Excellent projects that were carefully spent. It is nothing short of a crime to run it elevated downtown and I told them that."

"They argued that if you ran the trains at grade the traffic on the roadways wouldn't allow for efficient service," he said. "However, all around the world they do it and even if you believe that, you can't justify the money they are spending. Light rail is significantly less expensive."

"From a transit point of view, what they are doing is sheer lunacy," he said. "The key goal of any transit system is to get the people interested by having it downtown first. Honolulu has made a huge mistake."

He concluded: "I think Honolulu will be a poster child for how not to put a transit system in the city...they couldn't be doing it any worse, it's mistake after mistake."

When asked what he thought the project should do now he recommended they cancel whatever contract they have and make the rest of the system a light rail system.