



Beef up police patrol on LRT

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If the city is serious about transit safety, the strategy must include more police to patrol the whole system, not just targeted areas.

The latest incident, an alcohol-fuelled stabbing at a downtown LRT station, has two aldermen calling for a stronger police presence. Aldermen Diane Colley-Urquhart and Andre Chabot say the incident shows police are the ones best equipped to keep transit safe.

While it's debatable whether more expensive and highly trained police should replace transit security, certainly a stronger presence -- of both uniformed and undercover officers -- would give the system a boost in muscle power.

Blitzing the C-Train routes with police would send a message of zero-tolerance to potential troublemakers. Only police can rid the system of the criminal element hanging about LRT stations, especially drug dealers.

The long-term solution could also include ending the free-fare zone downtown after certain hours to discourage unsavoury types from riding the trains up and down 7th Avenue in the evenings.

Police and transit security officers should work together to crack down on petty crime, eliminating the breeding ground for more serious offences to take place.

There's a shortage of police officers per capita throughout Calgary.

But we must make it a priority to devote more law enforcement resources to transit if the system is to be rid of punks, vandals and drug dealers. Only then can Calgary Transit create an overall sense of cleanliness, safety and order.

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