

on Monday.

Calgarians are certainly annoyed.

Even as Calgary Transit takes to social media to explain the delays and breakdowns, transit users are firing back in real time on the LRT system.

“Confession: I am now deathly afraid of dying of old age during a train delay.”

It’s the kind of online quip growing more common among passengers left twiddling their typing thumbs through service interruptions.

“Calgary Transit: If you are downtown right now, our condolences,” is another dig, this one from CT_Slogans, a Twitter account that posts satirical mottos for the glitch-plagued LRT.

Humour keeps tempers from boiling, but it doesn’t get the trains moving.

And a citizen’s group probably won’t either, says one alderman.

Her belief that Nenshi’s advisory group won’t have the teeth to really solve anything has convinced Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart to push for something stronger.

Colley-Urquhart is calling for the city to consider an independent commission to oversee Calgary Transit, as a non-political body similar to the civilian group overseeing the police service.

She says Calgary Transit doesn’t need advice, it needs a hard kick in the pants.

“We don’t need a Band-Aid approach, we need sweeping change,” said Colley-Urquhart.

Rather than citizens making diplomatic suggestions to transit, she says a transit commission would report directly to council on solutions and budget decisions.

The result is a watchdog isolated from the political decisions that have too often hampered debate on fares, parking fees and other issues.

Most of all, a transit commission could cut to the heart of the ongoing reliability issue.

“Delays mean a lack of accountability,” said Colley-Urquhart.

“This requires people with expertise in an oversight role, who are not going to just tinker and nibble around the edges at things.”

michael.platt@sunmedia.ca

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