

May 30, 2008

Police seek LRT security job

By [SHAWN LOGAN](#), SUN MEDIA

Increasing concerns over C-Train safety has Calgary police brass pushing to take over security for the entire LRT system from the current crop of transit cops.

With the city auditing the safety of the entire transit system, Calgary cops are preparing a pitch to come before the police commission to patrol the rails.

The C-Train system has seen a growing perception of danger amongst both riders and city officials.



Deputy Chief Al Redford said police first suggested the move in 2000, when a city committee discussed arming transit cops with batons and pepper spray.

That plan was shot down, leaving those tasks in the hands of special constables, who continue to patrol the lines.

But with a new chief in the fold and more crime in and around the LRT, the shelved report is being updated for a second look.

"The political will was not there at the time, but now that report has been dusted off and we're bringing it up to speed -- we think it's an idea whose time has come again," Redford said.

"The bottom line is we stood behind it then and we still support that idea."

Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart, who sits on the police commission and opposed the plan when it was hatched eight years ago, said she thinks it is needed and wants Chief Rick Hanson to propose it when he prepares his three-year budget request in the fall.

"I continue to push the chief to seriously look at including this in his budget," she said.

"I don't think it's unreasonable for Calgarians to feel safe and want to ride transit and this would help with that."