

Approved: 5/6/24

UTAH PASSENGER ROPEWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

March 4, 2024

UDOT Lester Wire conference room & Google Meets

Committee members at UDOT:	Robert Miles, Ex-officio Member
Committee members Google Meets:	Rich Taxwood, Chairman, Ski Area Representative Russ Oberlander, Vice-chairman, Engineer Jill Koford, Public Representative Curt Panter, U.S. Forest Service Representative Jeff West, Ski Area Representative
Staff at UDOT:	Brian Allen, UDOT
Others (Google Meets):	Brad Hansen, Utah Olympic Park Gustavo Gonzalez, Park City Resort Zach Doyle, Brighton Dave Justice, Buckskin Hills Recreation Brandon Nelson, Sundance Brandon Conlin, Alpine Engineering Seth Wallace, Forest Service

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 22, 2024 meeting were reviewed and one change was noted.

Following the review Curt Panter made a motion to approve the minutes of both meetings and Rich Taxwood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Qualified Engineer Application

Robert Langlands was not able to attend the meeting. The committee deferred the discussion of the application to the next meeting.

III. Proposed changes to the air space requirement

The proposed changes to the air space requirements were reviewed and briefly discussed. The proposed change would require an engineer to evaluate the encroachment as part of the process required in the rule, but would not require an exception to the rule. The change would remove the committee's approval of the engineers evaluation from the process. Having reviewed the proposed change the committee decided that the currently established process of reviewing and approving each encroachment into the air space of a lift. No changes will be made to the air space requirements.

IV. Ropeway inspector discussion

Ropeway inspectors are required to be engineers licensed in Utah and approved by the Committee. The current quality of the inspections is excellent. The inspections establish compliance with the ANSI B77 requirement for an annual inspection by someone independent of the owner. Most of the approved inspectors are committed to work exclusively for either an insurance program or a lift manufacturer. The resource available to the self insured areas or operators with just one or two ropeways is limited to just a few inspectors.

A couple of options could possibly help. Starting inspections earlier in the fall is possible but is a challenge for resorts to have the lifts all running at the time of inspection with a substantial amount of maintenance still being completed. Expanding the number of inspectors by dropping the licensed engineer requirement would possibly help.

The ideas for alternative requirements to be approved as an inspector who is not an engineer were reviewed. In general the 4 years of experience was viewed as not being enough. One suggestion was to increase the number to 8 years.

The discussion will continue at the next meeting. Additional information from the amusement ride industry and requirements from the Forest service will be included for the discussion.

V. Forest Service / Area & Manufacturer Updates

The areas and manufactures present gave brief updates as to their recent activities.

VI. Open Discussion / Questions

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.