

**Approved: 9/8/2025**

**UTAH PASSENGER ROPEWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**May 5, 2025**

**UDOT Lester Wire conference room  
& Google Meets**

Committee members at UDOT:

Rich Taxwood, Chairman, Ski Area Representative  
Russ Oberlander, Vice-chairman, Engineer

Committee members Google Meets:

Steve Thygerson, Public Representative  
Jeff West, Ski Area Representative  
Seth Wallace, U.S. Forest Service; proxy for Curt Panter, U.S. Forest Service Representative

Committee members absent:

Patrick Cowley, UDOT ex-officio member

Staff:

Brian Allen, UDOT

Others (at UDOT):

Don Rogers, The Park Record

Others (Google Meets):

Brad Hansen, Utah Olympic Park  
Brandon Conlin  
Danny McRae, Powder Mountain  
Jason Davis, Alta  
Katie Gubler, Nordic Valley  
Mike Renz, Deer Valley  
Nathan Raferty, Ski Utah  
Seth Haddick, Wasatch Peaks Ranch  
Troy Matthews, Deer Valley  
Zach Doyle, Brighton

**Call to order**

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

**I. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the March 3, 2025 meeting were reviewed.

Following the review Russ Oberlander made a motion to approve the minutes and Jeff West seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**II. Ski lift/ropeway maintenance technician training**

Dan Richmond was scheduled to present information about the new program, but he was unable to join the meeting. Nathan Raferty presented an overview of the Salt Lake

Community College program. The ski industry is supportive of efforts to establish a program that will help provide technical resources for the resort's maintenance activities.

**III. Annual B77 exception review**

There are 2 exceptions to the ANSI B77 requirements. Both are for direct drive lifts where the brakes all act on the same braking surface, the bullwheel. The lifts are the Alta Sunnyside lift and the Brighton Crest lift. There haven't been any incidents that would create concern about renewing these exceptions for another year. Following the discussion Russ Oberlander made a motion to approve these exceptions for another year. Seth Wallace seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**IV. Annual air space exception review**

The following air space exceptions were reviewed and discussed.

- Deer Valley Mountaineer lift
- Park City Cabriolet gondola
- Park City Crescent lift
- Park City Frostwood gondola
- Park City Red Pine gondola
- Park City Sunrise lift
- Snowbird Chickadee lift
- Snowbird Peruvian Express lift
- Wasatch Peaks Ranch Gondola

It was noted that there is an additional exception for the Brighton Crest lift that crosses over a cabin.

All of the air space exceptions were discussed, including the Brighton Crest lift. Following the discussion Rich Taxwood made a motion to approve all of the exceptions for another year. Jeff West seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**V. Forest Service, Area, and Manufacturer Updates**

Those present gave a brief update on the recent activities at the resort.

**VI. Open Discussion / Questions**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.