



State of Utah

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Lieutenant Governor

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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TERIANNE S. NEWELL, P.E.
Deputy Director of Planning and Investment

LISA J. WILSON, P.E.
Deputy Director of Engineering and Operations

October 20, 2025

TO: Owners, Area Operators, and other interested parties

FROM: Brian L. Allen

SUBJECT: 11/3/2025 Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee meeting at UDOT and Google meets

The next Utah Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee meeting will be at **1:00 p.m. on Monday, November 3, 2025**. You're welcome to attend either in the UDOT Lester Wire conference room or electronically through Google meets. The electronic appointment contains the links necessary to join the meeting and also includes a link to the agenda. You will be able to join by phone or computer. Video and non-video are both supported.

Contact Information:
Email: brianallen@utah.gov
Cell: 801-633-6408

AGENDA

- ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
September 8, 2025 Meeting
- ITEM 2. 2026 UPRSC meeting schedule
- ITEM 3. Exception requests for direct drive lifts
- ITEM 4. Exception request: Deer Valley East Village Gondola, vertical clearance
- ITEM 5. Air space exception request: Park City Resort Cabriolet replacement
- ITEM 6. Updates: Forest Service, Areas, Manufacturers
- ITEM 7. Open Discussion

UTAH PASSENGER ROPEWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, November 3, 2025 - 1:00 p.m.
UDOT Lester Wire Conference Room
and
Electronic Meeting (Google Meets)

AGENDA

- ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
September 8, 2025 Meeting
- ITEM 2. 2026 UPRSC meeting schedule
- ITEM 3. Exception requests for direct drive lifts
- ITEM 4. Exception request: Deer Valley East Village Gondola, vertical clearance
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- ITEM 6. Updates: Forest Service, Areas, Manufacturers
- ITEM 7. Open Discussion

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**Utah Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee Meeting
Agenda Fact Sheet**

Meeting Date: 11-3-25

Agenda Item: 1

Subject: Approval of Minutes – September 8, 2025

Background:

Exhibits:

Draft minutes

Committee Action Requested: Review and approve the meeting minutes with changes recommended by the Committee.

Pending approval

UTAH PASSENGER ROPEWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 8, 2025

UDOT Lester Wire conference room & Google Meets

Committee members at UDOT:

Russ Oberlander, Vice-chairman, Engineer
Patrick Cowley, UDOT ex-officio member

Committee members Google Meets:

Steve Thygerson, Public Representative
Seth Wallace, U.S. Forest Service, proxy for Curt
Panter, U.S. Forest Service Representative

Committee members absent:

Rich Taxwood, Chairman, Ski Area Representative
Jeff West, Ski Area Representative

Staff:

Brian Allen, UDOT
Rhett Arnell, UDOT
Leif Elder, UDOT

Others (at UDOT):

Simone Lawrence, public

Others (Google Meets):

Brad Hansen, Utah Olympic Park
Danny McRae, Powder Mountain
Jason Davis, Alta
Skyler Bair, Nordic Valley
Brandon Nelson, Sundance
Steve Kirner, Altera
Nick Dana, Park City Resort
Jeff Peterson, Iron Mountain Engineering
Richard White, A2O, Inc.
Gustavo Gonzales, MCP
Daylen Brown, public

Call to order

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

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 5, 2025 meeting were reviewed.

Following the review Steve Thygerson made a motion to approve the minutes and Seth Wallace seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Public Hearing: proposed ropeway registration fee increase

Brian Allen introduced the proposed 15% fee increase for ropeway registration fees. The additional surcharge for summer operation will remain at 15%. The hearing was opened for questions or comments. Nick Dana, Park City Resort, asked what was driving the need for a fee increase. Brian Allen indicated that it was primarily the costs associated with the Ropeway Safety Engineer position. The budget, fees collected, gradually increases as the number of lifts grow from new installations. The program costs grow as the ropeway safety engineer position costs more from pay increases for state employees. There were no additional questions or comments.

Following the opportunity for comments Seth Wallace made a motion of support for the proposed fee increase, Steve Thygerson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. The proposed fee increase will be forwarded to the governor's office to be included for discussion in the next general session of the state legislature.

III. Qualified Engineer application: Jeremiah Frazier

The qualified engineer application of Jeremiah Frazier was reviewed. Following the discussion Seth Wallace made a motion to approve the application and Patrick Cowley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Forest Service, Area, and Manufacturer Updates

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

V. Open Discussion / Questions

The open discussion included a preliminary review of the air space exception request for the Park City Resort Cabriolet Gondola replacement. The request identified 7 points for discussion. Following the presentation and discussion of those 7 points the UPRSC had additional requests for 2 of those. More information is requested about the power line crossing, particularly a confirmation that the clearances met ANSI and Rocky Mountain Power clearance requirements. Also identified as a concern was the potential of a fire hazard created by the location of dumpsters located underneath the lift line. Relocation of the dumpsters or mitigation of the fire hazard was requested. Verification of clearances when the dumpsters were being emptied was also requested.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Utah Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee Meeting Agenda Fact Sheet

Meeting Date:	11-3-25	Agenda Item:	2
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Subject: 2026 UPRSC meeting schedule

Background:

The proposed meeting schedule is:

- January 5th
- March 2nd
- May 11th
- September 14th
- November 2nd

Industry events:

- NSAA western winter meetings; January 13-15, 2026
- RMLA; May 18-21, 2026
- NSAA annual meetings; May 4-7, 2026

Attachments:

Committee Action Requested:

Item	Action	Completed

Utah Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee Meeting Agenda Fact Sheet

Meeting Date:	11-3-25	Agenda Item:	3
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Subject: Exception requests: direct drive lifts

Background:

Three direct drive lifts are being installed this year and need exceptions for the brakes all acting on the same surface, the bullwheel. Two lifts are at Deer Valley, the lower and upper sections of the Deer Valley East Village Gondola. The other lift is the Sunrise gondola at Park City Resort.

The other direct drive lifts in Utah have exceptions granted and have operated without incident. I would recommend approval of these exceptions upon the completion of the paperwork.

The exception request for the Park City Resort Sunrise gondola is being finalized. I will send it when it has been completed.

Attachments:

Deer Valley East Village Gondola, lower and upper sections
Park City Resort Sunrise gondola: exception request pending

Committee Action Requested:



Request for Exception from Standards

Utah Department of Transportation
Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee
4501 S Constitution Blvd.
Taylorsville, UT 84119

OPERATOR / AREA

Name: Deer Valley Resort

Address: 7800 Service Rd. Park City, UT 84060

OPERATOR / AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Name: Troy Mathews

Title: Director of Lift Maintenance

LIFT INFORMATION

Name: Deer Valley East Village Gondola (Section 1 and 2)

ID: Section 1 and 2 of the gondola is not licensed at this time.

TYPE OF REQUEST

Annual	Limited
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Original	<input type="radio"/> Review
For the Season: November 1, 2025	to October 31, 2026

DESCRIPTION (Original Requests: complete items 1-4, Review Requests: complete item 1 only)

1.	ANSI B77 sections or R920-50 rules to which the ropeway does not conform: 3.1.2.6-Brakes and rollback devices
2.	Why does it not conform? The Deer Valley East Village Gondola uses Direct Drive motors. This precludes the use of a gearbox and a service brake acting on the gearbox highspeed input shaft.
3.	Procedures that would be required to bring the lift into conformance with standards: The Direct Drive technology is well proven in the USA and worldwide. The use of this technology eliminates the use of service brakes in the traditional sense.
4.	Reasons for requesting an exception: Redundant surfaces exist for the emergency brakes and service brakes to react against. Probability of braking surface contamination has been reduced by protecting the Drive bullwheel flanges from spills. Redundant braking philosophy assures the failure of the Emergency brake to stop and hold will invoke a separate, independent braking system to stop and hold the lift (Service Brake)

CERTIFICATION AND SUBMITTAL

<input type="checkbox"/>	I certify that this ropeway has been operated safely and without any passenger ropeway incident as defined in R920-50-2-G-1 or 7, related to the feature for which exception is requested, for _____ years (at least 2 years) prior to the date of this request. (see R920-50-10-C)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A certification from a qualified engineer is attached attesting that the ropeway is so designed and equipped that its devices or methods provide features that are comparable in performance and safety to requirements in standards. (see R920-50-10-C)	
Qualified Engineer Signature: <i>Steve Kirner</i>		Print Name: Steven J. Kirner P.E. Date: 10/20/2025
Owner's Signature: <i>Steve Kirner</i>		Print Name: Steven J. Kirner P.E. Date: 10/20/2025

APPROVAL

Signature:	Date Approved:
Chairperson, UPRSC	

**Utah Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee Meeting
Agenda Fact Sheet**

Meeting Date: 11-3-25

Agenda Item: 4

Subject: Exception request: Deer Valley East Village Gondola, vertical clearance

Background:

Due to construction sequencing near the bottom station of the Deer Valley East Village Gondola, pedestrians with ski equipment in-arms will be routed between towers 2 and 3 for the 2025/2026 ski season.

The use of a shipping container as a passageway will prevent contact between the cabins and the ski equipment being carried by customers.

Attachments:

Exception request

Committee Action Requested:



Request for Exception from Standards

Utah Department of Transportation
Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee
4501 S Constitution Blvd.
Taylorsville, UT 84119

OPERATOR / AREA

Name: Deer Valley Resort

Address: 7800 Service Rd. Park City UT, 84060

OPERATOR / AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

Name: Troy Mathews

Title: Director of Lift Maintenance

LIFT INFORMATION

Name: Deer Valley East Village Gondola (Section 1)

ID: Gondola is not licensed at this time.

TYPE OF REQUEST

Annual	Limited
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Original	<input type="radio"/> Review
For the Season: November 1, 2025	Date (requested until) to October 31, 2026

DESCRIPTION (Original Requests: complete items 1-4, Review Requests: complete item 1 only)

1.	ANSI B77 sections or R920-50 rules to which the ropeway does not conform: 3.1.1.5.1 - Vertical Clearances
2.	Why does it not conform? A shipping container has been located between towers 2 and 3 to prevent pedestrian and skier contact with gondola cabins. If the shipping container were removed, pedestrians and skiers could contact moving gondola cabins with their equipment.
3.	Procedures that would be required to bring the lift into conformance with standards: This situation is a result of large scale construction project that will be completed by the 2026/2027 operating season. This is a temporary exception request that will not be needed by the fall of 2026.
4.	Reasons for requesting an exception: Please see attached photos and reasoning justifying this request.

CERTIFICATION AND SUBMITTAL

<input type="checkbox"/>	I certify that this ropeway has been operated safely and without any passenger ropeway incident as defined in R920-50-2-G-1 or 7, related to the feature for which exception is requested, for _____ years (at least 2 years) prior to the date of this request. (see R920-50-10-C)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A certification from a qualified engineer is attached attesting that the ropeway is so designed and equipped that its devices or methods provide features that are comparable in performance and safety to requirements in standards. (see R920-50-10-C)		
Qualified Engineer Signature: <i>Steve Kirner</i>		Print Name: Steven J. Kirner P.E.	Date: 10/20/2025
Owner's Signature:		Print Name:	Date:

APPROVAL

Signature:	Date Approved:
Chairperson, UPRSC	



To: Utah Department of Transportation
Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee
4501 S. Constitution Blvd.
Taylorsville, UT 84119

From: Deer Valley Resort
Steve Kirner, P.E.
7800 Service Rd.
Park City, UT 84060

RE: Exception Request to ANSI B77.1-2022 Section 3.1.1.5.1 – Vertical Clearance for Deer Valley East Village Gondola (Section 1)

This is a 1 season temporary exception request to the vertical clearance requirements set forth in ANSI B77.1-2022 Section 3.1.1.5.1 – Vertical Clearances; specifically between towers 2 and 3. All other spans will be compliant.

Due to construction sequencing near the bottom station of the Deer Valley East Village Gondola, pedestrians with ski equipment in-arms will be routed between towers 2 and 3 for the 2025/2026 ski season. This poses a concern between the minimum vertical clearance standard put forth by ANSI B77.1-2022 Section 3.1.1.5.1 where the minimum vertical clearance between cabin and ground is 8ft. (the gondola would meet the minimum standards but, it is deer valley's belief that a hazard to passengers and pedestrians carrying ski gear still exists while meeting the 8 foot minimum clearance requirements.)

It is Deer Valley's opinion, that a minimum vertical clearance of 8 feet is insufficient to prevent skiers and pedestrians from contacting cabins with ski equipment while passing under the ropeway between towers 2 and 3. Deer Valley has placed a shipping container with open-ends beneath the gondola to create a passage for pedestrians to walk through on their way to the bottom station of the Gondola. The shipping container will prevent the pedestrians' ski equipment from contacting the gondola while it is in operation. Ropes will corral the pedestrians and skiers into and out of the container so they cannot go around it.



ALTERRA
MTN CO

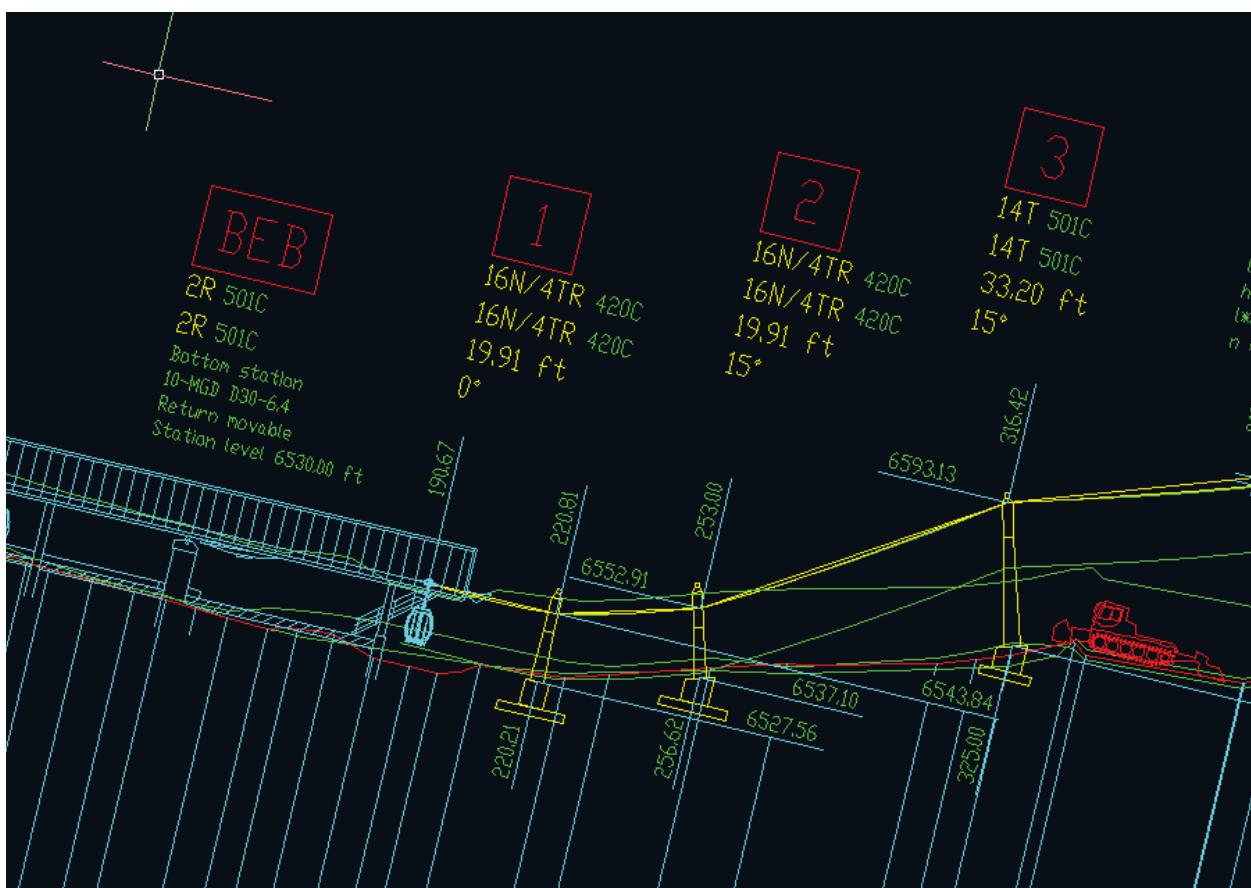




ALTERRA MTN CO

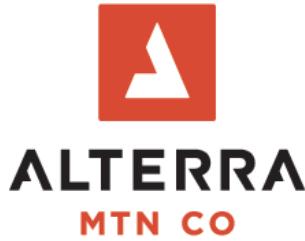
The Distance from top of the container to the bottom of the cabin is just under 4 feet of clearance. This 4 feet of clearance does not meet the ANSI standard but, we believe sufficient mitigation measures prevent any contact between cabins and the container. These mitigations are noted below.

The designed ropeway profile provided by Doppelmayr USA, Inc. expects a deviation of .2 feet (approx. 2.5") from fully empty cabins to fully loaded cabins. This deflection is notable but, is relatively small. The area between the cabin and top of the cabin will not be accessible while the gondola is moving.



Snow will be removed from the top of the container manually (shovels) while the gondola is not in operation.

There will be NO snowcats between towers 2 and 3. Any snow removal equipment, at ground level adjacent to the container, such as snowblowers and shovels are not expected to cause harm to the ropeway.

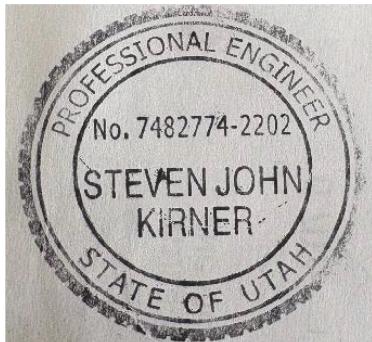


The only flammable material in the container is the wood floor and there will be no other materials stored in the container making the fire risk low.

The minimum vertical clearance requirement of 8 feet should be waived temporarily for Section 1 of the Deer Valley East Village Gondola between towers 2 and 3 because the ropeway will deflect minimally (approx. 2.5") and by using a container we create separation between passengers and pedestrians. Furthermore, to ensure pedestrians do not go around the shipping container (passage way) ropes will guide pedestrians in and out of the container.

Thank you,

Steven J. Kirner, P.E.



Digitally signed
by Steven J
Kirner PE
Date: 2025.10.20
16:27:52 -06'00'

Utah Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee Meeting Agenda Fact Sheet

Meeting Date: 11-3-25

Agenda Item: 4

Subject: Air Space exception request: Park City Resort Cabriolet replacement

Background:

The Committee discussed the Cabriolet replacement project at the last meeting and identified a couple of issues where additional information would be needed. Park City Resort has been working on those details and will be submitting an updated exception request.

The reason the application is not part of this version of the agenda is that this meeting snuck up on me, and I didn't notify the resorts about submitting information as soon as I should have for the agenda to be distributed about 2 weeks before the meeting.

Attachments:

Park City Resort Cabriolet replacement: updated air space exception request pending submittal.

Committee Action Requested:

**Utah Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee Meeting
Agenda Fact Sheet**

Meeting Date: 11-3-25	Agenda Item: 6
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Subject: Forest Service / Area & Manufacturer Updates
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Background:

Exhibits:

Committee Action Requested:

**Utah Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee Meeting
Agenda Fact Sheet**

Meeting Date: 11-3-25	Agenda Item: 7
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Subject: Safety Topic / Open Discussion / Questions
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Background:

Exhibits:

Committee Action Requested:
