

**Approved: 12/1/2025**

## UTAH PASSENGER ROPEWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

**November 3, 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 Representative Jeff West, Ski Area Representative
Committee members absent:	Rich Taxwood, Chairman, Ski Area Representative
Staff:	Brian Allen, UDOT Rhett Arnell, UDOT
Others (at UDOT):	Kiel Mapes, Doppelmayr Lee Furhken, Doppelmayr Mike Campanella, Doppelmayr
Others (Google Meets):	Brad Hansen, Utah Olympic Park Danny McRae, Powder Mountain Jason Davis, Alta Skyler Bair, Nordic Valley Steve Kirner, Alterra Nick Dana, Park City Resort Gustavo Gonzales, MCP Troy Matthews, Deer Valley Resort Zach Doyle, Brighton Dan Cusack, Brian Head

#### **Call to order**

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

#### **I. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the September 8, 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. 2026 UPRSC meeting schedule**

The meeting schedule for 2026 was announced. The meetings are scheduled for:

- January 5, 2026
- March 2, 2026
- May 11, 2026
- September 14, 2026
- November 2, 2026

## **III. Exception requests: direct drive lifts**

There are three direct drive lifts being installed in Utah this year. Section 3.1.2.6.1 of ANSI B77.1-2022 states “The service brake shall not act on the same braking surface as the bullwheel brake.” A direct drive lift only has one surface for the brakes to act on. The committee members reviewed the design of lifts and the reduced potential for contamination of the bullwheel braking surface for a direct drive lift. The exception requests are each for an annual exception to the ANSI B77 requirement.

Following the discussion Russ Oberlander made a motion to approve the applications and Seth Wallace seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **IV. Exception request: Deer Valley East Village Gondola, vertical clearance**

A shipping container has been placed between towers 2 and 3 of the Deer Valley East Village Gondola. The container will provide a pedestrian walkway to the loading station of the gondola. The container will prevent pedestrians carrying ski equipment from contacting the gondola cabins.

The clearance from the gondola cabin to the top of the container is 4 feet. The expected rope sag of a fully loaded cabin is 2.5” lower than an unloaded cabin. Rope lines will be used to prevent access to the low clearance area. Snow will be removed when the lift is not in operation.

Following the discussion Seth Wallace made a motion to approve the applications and Steve Thygerson 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 meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm.