

**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 that 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.