

Pending approval

UTAH PASSENGER ROPEWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

January 5, 2026

UDOT Lester Wire conference room & Google Meets

Committee members at UDOT:

Rich Taxwood, Chairman, Ski Area Representative
Russ Oberlander, Vice-chairman, Engineer
Paul Johnston, Public Representative
Patrick Cowley, UDOT ex-officio member
Jeff West, Ski Area Representative
Seth Wallace, U.S. Forest Service Representative
Steve Thygerson, Public Representative

Committee members Google Meets:

Committee members absent:

Staff:

Brian Allen, UDOT
Rhett Arnell, UDOT

Others (UDOT):

Robert Langlands, Skytrac
Paul Carter, Skytrac
Curt Panter, Tuv Sud
Danny McRae, Powder Mountain
Steve Kirner, Alterra
Nick Dana, Park City Resort
Gustavo Gonzales, MCP
Troy Matthews, Deer Valley
Skyler Bair, Nordic Valley
Brandon Nelson, Sundance
Kiel Mapes, Doppelmayr
Jeff Peterson, Iron Mountain Engineering
Dave Justice, Buckskin Hills Recreation
Brad Hansen, Utah Olympic Park
Chris McCandless, Snowland

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm. There were some technical difficulties early in the meeting. Online participation and the recording was not available until the Deer Valley East Village air space exception request.

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 1, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Only the quorum of members present in the room were able to participate in the discussion, motion, and voting.

Following the review Russ Oberlander made a motion to approve the minutes and Paul Johnston seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Exception request: Deer Valley East Village; 4 lifts, air space

The lifts located in the Deer Valley East Village base area all have tower cranes that weathervane over the bottom terminals. There is fencing that separates the construction area from the ski area where the bottom lift terminals are located. The cranes are equipped to prevent loads from being lifted over the skiing area. During winter weather events resort maintenance staff will monitor the buildup of snow or ice on the cranes. If snow or ice builds up on the cranes lift operations will be suspended until it has been removed.

The Committee discussed the proposal and recognized that these air space exceptions for tower cranes addressed the same issues as the previous tower crane air space exceptions. The previous exceptions have not had any incidents associated with the operation of the lifts. Following the discussion Russ Oberlander made a motion to approve the air space exception requests for the lifts in the Deer Valley East Village base area, and Jeff West seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Exception request: Park City Resort; Cabriolet gondola replacement, air space

This request was discussed at the September 2025 meeting and the Committee asked for additional information about the location of dumpsters underneath the lift line and about the Rocky Mountain Power line crossing over the lift. There were several other air space issues associated with the proposed lift that the Committee was comfortable with how they had been addressed.

Park City Resort staff and consultants have worked with the condominium association that owns the dumpsters. A new location for the dumpsters outside of the air space has been agreed upon.

Coordination with Rocky Mountain Power has resulted in some changes to the lift profile. The revised profile meets the ANSI requirements and the Rocky Mountain Power clearance requirements. The Committee's questions have been answered.

Following the discussion of the dumpsters and power line crossing the other air space issues associated with the proposed lift were reviewed again. Again the Committee was comfortable with how those had been addressed. Following that review and brief discussion Paul Johnston made a motion to approve the air space exception request and Russ Oberlander seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Forest Service, area, and manufacturer updates

The areas and lift manufacturers present gave a brief update on the recent activities.

V. Open Discussion / Questions

The areas and lift manufacturers present gave a brief update on the recent activities. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.