



State of Utah

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Governor

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Lieutenant Governor

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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*Deputy Director of Engineering and Operations*

May 1, 2026

TO: Owners, Area Operators, and other interested parties

FROM: Brian L. Allen

SUBJECT: 5/11/2026 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, May 11, 2026**. 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:

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### AGENDA

- ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
March 2, 2026 Meeting
- ITEM 2. B77 exceptions annual review
- ITEM 3. Air space exceptions annual review
- ITEM 4. Updates: Forest Service, Areas, Manufacturers
- ITEM 5. Open Discussion

# UTAH PASSENGER ROPEWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, May 11, 2026 - 1:00 p.m.  
UDOT Lester Wire Conference Room  
and  
Electronic Meeting (Google Meets)

## AGENDA

- ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES  
March 2, 2026 Meeting
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- ITEM 4. Updates: Forest Service, Areas, Manufacturers
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# # #

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

**Meeting Date:** 5-11-26

**Agenda Item:** 1

**Subject:** Approval of Minutes – March 2, 2026

**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

**March 2, 2026**

#### **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:	Paul Johnston, Public Representative Steve Thygerson, Public Representative Seth Wallace, U.S. Forest Service Representative
Committee members absent:	Jeff West, Ski Area Representative Patrick Cowley, UDOT ex-officio member
Staff:	Brian Allen, UDOT Rhett Arnell, UDOT
Others (UDOT):	Danny McRae, Powder Mountain Matt Salo, Powder Mountain Paul Carter, Skytrac
Others (Google Meets):	Curt Panter, Tuv Sud Steve Kirner, Alterra Nick Dana, Park City Resort Troy Matthews, Deer Valley Skyler Bair, Nordic Valley Brad Hansen, Utah Olympic Park

#### **Call to order**

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

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

The minutes of the January 5, 2026 meeting were reviewed.

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

## **II. Qualified engineer application: Paul Carter**

Paul Carter is the Engineering Manager for Skytrac Lifts. His application, work experience, and references were reviewed. Following the discussion Russ Oberlander made a motion to approve Paul's application and Rich Taxwood seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **III. Modification: Powder Mountain Lightning Ridge lift**

Powder Mountain is considering replacing one of the carriers on the Lightning Ridge lift with a carousel horse art piece. Brian Allen introduced the discussion stating that he considered this to be a modification of the lift and would require a design certification from a qualified engineer.

The committee considered if the modification would require an exception questioning if ANSI B77 allowed a carousel horse that is not a carrier to be added to a lift?

Additionally the committee discussed if it is in the interest of public safety for an art piece such as a carousel horse to be added to a lift that is primarily used to transport passengers? Referenced in this discussion was that school buses are kept to a specific look and color. The easy identification of school buses helps drivers more easily identify the buses, and by extension help with the primary purpose, to safely transport students.

They asked what would happen if the loading gates malfunctioned, or were not operational? It is proposed that the loading gates would not open when the carousel horse passes through the loading zone. Loading gates are not fail safe systems incorporated into the lift control systems. While loading gates usually function well it is established that malfunctions occasionally occur.

The concept of making the carousel horse a "carrier" by adding some sort of cargo carrying capacity was mentioned by Powder Mountain during the discussion.

Design questions relating to wind, swing clearances, construction materials, and testing were discussed.

The conclusion of the discussions was that more evaluation was needed.

## **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 meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

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

**Meeting Date:** 5-11-26

**Agenda Item:** 2

**Subject:** B77 exceptions annual review

**Background:**

There are several exceptions to ANSI B77.1 for the brakes on direct drive lifts. Since there is not a service brake disc, the emergency brake and the service brake both act on the same surface. There have not been any incidents relating to the brakes on these direct drive lifts.

Direct drive lifts with exceptions:

- Brighton Crest lift
- Alta Sunnyside lift
- Deer Valley East Village Gondola, lower section
- Deer Valley East Village Gondola, upper section
- Park City Sunrise Gondola

**Attachments:**

**Committee Action Requested:**

Item	Action	Completed

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

**Meeting Date:** 5-11-26

**Agenda Item:** 3

**Subject:** Air space exceptions annual review

**Background:**

The following lifts have air space exceptions:

- Park City Crescent lift (lift crosses over mountain coaster)
- Park City Frostwood gondola (Miner's club building)
- Park City Red Pine gondola (summer event tent)
- Park City New Cabriolet gondola (traffic circle sign, power line, bus stop, YotelPAD, Grand Summit)
- Snowbird Peruvian Express lift (mountain coaster building)
- Brighton Crest lift (lift line over cabin)
- Wasatch Peaks Ranch Gondola (skier services building, mobile crane)
- Deer Valley Mountaineer lift (tower crane)
- Deer Valley East Village gondola (tower crane)
- Deer Valley Hoodoo Express (tower crane)
- Deer Valley Keetley Express (tower crane)
- Deer Valley Aurora (tower crane)

There haven't been any incidents associated with the air space on these lifts.

**Attachments:**

**Committee Action Requested:**

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

**Meeting Date:** 5-11-26

**Agenda Item:** 4

**Subject:** Forest Service / Area & Manufacturer Updates

**Background:**

**Exhibits:**

**Committee Action Requested:**

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

**Meeting Date:** 5-11-26

**Agenda Item:** 5

**Subject:** Safety Topic / Open Discussion / Questions

**Background:**

Verify ANSI NDT requirement for new lift that didn't run last winter.

Several new lifts were installed last fall that did not run last winter. How much a lift has operated doesn't change the ANSI ndt requirement. I have been asked to verify my interpretation that it is still necessary to remove 20% of the carriers.

**Exhibits:**

**Committee Action Requested:**