

Approved: 5/11/2026

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.