



State of Utah

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Deputy Director of Engineering and Operations

July 21, 2026

TO: Owners, Area Operators, and other interested parties

FROM: Brian L. Allen

SUBJECT: 7/27/2026 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, July 27, 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
May 11, 2026 Meeting
- ITEM 2. Eagle Point Resort / Cottonwood fire discussion
- ITEM 3. Updates: Forest Service, Areas, Manufacturers
- ITEM 4. Open Discussion

UTAH PASSENGER ROPEWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, July 27, 2026 - 1:00 p.m.
UDOT Lester Wire Conference Room
and
Electronic Meeting (Google Meets)

AGENDA

- ITEM 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
May 11, 2026 Meeting
- ITEM 2. Eagle Point Resort / Cottonwood fire discussion
- ITEM 3. Updates: Forest Service, Areas, Manufacturers
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Utah Passenger Ropeway Safety Committee Meeting Agenda Fact Sheet	
Meeting Date: 7-27-26	Agenda Item: 1
Subject: Approval of Minutes – May 11, 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

May 11, 2026

UDOT Lester Wire conference room & Google Meets

Committee members at UDOT:	Paul Johnston, Public Representative Patrick Cowley, UDOT ex-officio member
Committee members Google Meets:	Rich Taxwood, Chairman, Ski Area Representative Russ Oberlander, Vice-chairman, Engineer Steve Thygerson, Public Representative Seth Wallace, U.S. Forest Service Representative
Committee members absent:	Jeff West, Ski Area Representative
Staff:	Brian Allen, UDOT Rhett Arnell, UDOT
Others (Google Meets):	Nick Dana, Park City Resort Troy Matthews, Deer Valley Skyler Bair, Nordic Valley Brad Hansen, Utah Olympic Park Seth Haddick, Wasatch Peaks Ranch Bronwen Lindley, Sundance Chris McCandless, Snowland Gustavo Gonzalez, MCP Jason Davis, Alta Kiel Mapes, Doppelmayr Lee Fuhrken, Doppelmayr Paul Carter, Skytrac Robert Langlands, Skytrac Zach Doyle, Brighton

Call to order

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

I. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 2, 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. B77 exceptions annual review

Five direct drive lifts require an exception to the ANSI standard. They are the Brighton Crest lift, The Alta Sunnyside lift, The Park City Sunrise Gondola, and the upper and lower sections of the Deer Valley East Village Gondola. ANSI requires that the service brake and the emergency brake act on different surfaces. A direct drive lift only has one surface, the bullwheel. There haven't been any incidents associated with direct drive lifts using a common braking surface for multiple brakes. Following the discussion Rich Taxwood made a motion to approve the exception request for the direct drive lifts and Seth Wallace seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Air space exceptions annual review

The following lifts need an exception from the air space requirement.

- 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 Canyons Village Skyway 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)

The specific air space issues for each lift were reviewed. There haven't been any incidents associated with the air space issues for these lifts. Following the discussion Russ Oberlander made a motion to approve the air space exceptions for another year and Steve Thygerson 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 past year there were several new lifts that did not open for public operation because of the limited amount of snow we received last winter. A question has been asked about the ANSI non destructive testing requirement. The discussion confirmed that the ANSI requirement does not include a minimum amount of public operation as a factor in compliance with the required 20% of carriers. An alteration of the ANSI requirements would need an exception request to be approved by the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.

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

Meeting Date: 7-27-26

Agenda Item: 2

Subject: Eagle Point Resort / Cottonwood fire discussion

Background:

The Cottonwood forest fire burned through the Eagle Point Resort. I recommended that each lift be inspected by an approved qualified engineer and each wire rope be inspected by an approved wire rope inspector. These inspections would specifically address the impacts of the forest fire on each lift. This is intended as a starting point for the Committee to begin determining the actual requirements.

We had hoped to have more information to include with this agenda but limited access to the resort and the recent storm and flooding in the Beaver area that has affected resort employees has limited progress.

Attachments:

Committee Action Requested:

Item	Action	Completed

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

Meeting Date: 7-27-26

Agenda Item: 3

Subject: Forest Service / Area & Manufacturer Updates

Background:

Exhibits:

Committee Action Requested:

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

Meeting Date: 7-27-26

Agenda Item: 4

Subject: Open Discussion / Questions

Background:

Exhibits:

Committee Action Requested: