

Approved: 7/27/2026

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.