

PASSENGER TRAMWAY BOARD
Sunset Advisory Commission
Board and Commission Review

The Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

The Commission also reviews whether members of a board or commission should be entitled to a per diem and, if so, the amount of that per diem.

In testifying before the Commission, you should be able to provide the following information:

- 1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.**

The Passenger Tramway Board typically meets three times per year and may meet more frequently if there is an issue that needs to be discussed or a decision that needs to be made. In the past two fiscal years (FY22 and FY21), the board has met 3 times. Each meeting is warned in accordance with Vermont's open meeting law. During the pandemic, meetings were held virtually. The most recent meeting was a hybrid model. Many ski area personnel attend the meetings, including the Vermont Ski Areas Association

- 2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.**
The Board is comprised of five members. The Commissioner of Labor is the only statutorily appointed member who serves as the Chair of the committee. The remaining four members are appointed by the Governor, two industry representatives and two members of the public.

Current members of the Board are as follows:

Michael Harrington, Commissioner of Labor, Chair
Scott Reeves, Industry Representative
Kiersten Erikson, Industry Representative
Michael Tarricone, Public Representative
Sam Kessler, Public Representative

Each member receives a per diem stipend of \$50.00 per meeting and receive compensation for milage.

- 3. Provide an overview of the board or commission's purpose.**

The Passenger Tramway Board adopts rules governing the construction, operation and maintenance of aerial tramways, aerial lifts, surface lifts and tows. The Board also hears requests for variances from these rules. Additionally, The Department consults with the Board when establishing the annual fee-due-state per 31 VSA sec. 707 to provide for the operation of the Passenger Tramway Division. In addition to operating the tramway inspection program, the Board has requested and approved of expenditures to assist the Tramway mechanic apprenticeship program. See 31 VSA sec.707(2).

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

Yes, the Department believes that this purpose is still needed. If the Board no longer fulfilled the purpose, the Department would likely enact rules and the Fee Due State each year without input from mountain representatives and members of the public. This would create a less collaborative relationship between the State and ski mountains.

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

The Board is executing on its purpose as shown by robust conversations, captured in the Board's meeting notes and support in setting the annual Fee Due State.

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

No.

7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission's functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?

Yes. The Passenger Tramway Board is still the best entity to fulfill the statutory charge. There are not any functions of the Board that overlap, or duplicate others work being done including at the state and federal level.

8. Does the board or commission's enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

Yes.

9. Provide a list of the board and commission's last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

Last fiscal year's (7/2020 – 6/30/2021) expense totals are:

Salaries	219,024.91
Fringe	124,941.12
Total Personnel/Benefits	343,966.03
Supplies	959.86

Communications	3,929.63
Postage	78.40
Travel	28,505.02
Equipment Rent	64.15
Equipment Expense	7,105.64
Premises Rent	211.60
Premises Expenses	1,301.25
Services	5,353.94
Other Expenditures	23,708.98
Capital Purchase	0.00
Total Non-Personnel Services	71,218.47
Total Operating	415,184.50
Adjustments	-1,386.55
Total Other	-1,386.55
Total Budget Plan	413,797.95

10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

No.