



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
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DOMESTIC SECTION 214 APPLICATION GRANTED FOR THE TRANSFER OF CONTROL OF WIDOPENWEST, INC. AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES TO BANDIT MIDCO, INC.

WC Docket Nos. 25-262

By this Public Notice, the Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) grants, pursuant to section 214 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (Act), 47 U.S.C. § 214, and sections 0.91, 0.291, and 63.03 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 0.91, 0.291, and 63.03, the domestic section 214 wireline application (Application) listed in this notice. On November 18, 2025, the Bureau released a public notice requesting comment on the Application.¹ No comments were filed in opposition to a grant of the Application.

The Bureau finds, upon consideration of the record, that grant of the Applications will serve the public interest, convenience, and necessity and therefore grants the requested authorizations.² Pursuant to

¹ *Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of WideOpenWest, Inc. and its Subsidiaries to Bandit MidCo*, WC Docket No. 25-262, Public Notice, DA 25-955 (WCB Nov. 18, 2025) (Application) (requesting approval for the transfer of control of WideOpenWest, Inc. (WOW Parent) and its operating subsidiaries, Knology of the Valley, Inc. (Knology Valley), Valley Telephone Company, LLC (Valley Telephone), Knology Total Communications, Inc. (Knology TC), and Knology of Florida, LLC (d/b/a Knology of Florida, Inc.) (Knology of Florida) (collectively, Licensees) to Bandit MidCo, Inc. (Bandit MidCo), is ultimately owned and controlled by investment funds and entities affiliated with (1) DigitalBridge Group, Inc. (Digital Bridge), a Maryland publicly traded investment firm, and (2) entities owned by private equity funds managed by Crestview Advisors, L.L.C. (Crestview), a New York-based private equity firm). Applicants filed supplements to the Application on September 29, 2025 and December 29, 2025. Letter from Howard M. Liberman et al., Counsel for WideOpenWest, Inc., and Joshua M. Bobeck, Counsel for Bandit MidCo, Inc. to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 25-262 (filed Sept. 29, 2025) (Sept. 29 Supplement); Letter from Howard M. Liberman et al., Counsel for WideOpenWest, Inc., and Joshua M. Bobeck, Counsel for Bandit MidCo, Inc. to Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary, FCC, WC Docket No. 25-262 (filed Dec. 16, 2025) (Dec. 16 Supplement).

² See 47 U.S.C. § 214(a); 47 CFR § 63.03. Applicants state that neither Bandit MidCo nor its affiliates offer any mass-market broadband and/or voice service within the service areas of the Licensees. See Dec. 16 Supplement at 2. Applicants state that Bandit MidCo affiliate Zayo Group, LLC provides “a nominal number of on-net fiber-based end-user BDS connections in the market served by Knology of Florida.” *Id.* The Commission has not found significant competitive harm in certain transactions involving the combination of providers. See, e.g., *Applications of Level 3 Communications, Inc. and CenturyLink, Inc. for Consent to Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, 32 FCC Rcd 9581, 9594, 9605, paras. 26 and 52 (2017) (finding no harm to competition in CenturyLink's incumbent LEC territory, nor outside of CenturyLink's incumbent LEC territory, where applicants operate as competitive LECs, and further finding that the transaction “will expand the on-net reach of the newly combined firm resulting in a more effective and stronger competitor against larger cable and incumbent LEC competitors, among others, particularly outside of Century Link's incumbent LEC region, where it, like Level 3, operates as a competitive LEC.”); *Joint Applications of Telephone and Data Systems, Inc. and Chorus Communications, Ltd. For Authority to Transfer Control of Commission Licenses and Authorizations Pursuant to Sections 214 and 310(d) of the Communications Act and Parts 22, 63 and 90 of the Commission's Rules*,

(continued....)

section 1.103 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR § 1.103, the consent granted herein is effective upon the release of the Public Notice. Petitions for reconsideration under section 1.106 or applications for review under section 1.115 of the Commission's rules, 47 CFR §§ 1.106, 1.115, may be filed within 30 days of the date of this Public Notice.

Domestic Section 214 Application Filed for the Transfer of Control of WideOpenWest, Inc. and Its Subsidiaries to Bandit MidCo, Inc., WC Docket No. 25-262, Public Notice, DA 25-955 (WCB Nov. 18, 2025).

For further information, please contact Myrva Charles at 202-418-1506 or Dennis Johnson at 202-418-0809, Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau.

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Memorandum Opinion and Order, 16 FCC Rcd 15293, 15296-99, paras. 9-10 (CCB/WTB 2001) (authorizing a transfer of control involving an incumbent LEC and a competitive in-region provider of local exchange and exchange access services where overlap was limited and the transaction overall resulted in public interest benefits). The proposed transaction involves the transfer of incumbent LECs that are designated as eligible telecommunications carriers (ETCs) that receive universal service support in the forms of Connect America Fund Broadband Loop Support (CAF BLS) and/or Connect America Fund Intercarrier Compensation Recovery (CAF ICC) and that participate in the Lifeline program. Application at 16-17; Sept. 29 Supplement at 1-2. Applicants state that the proposed transaction “will not result in any changes that would compromise the support recipients’ ability to meet their service obligations under the universal service programs, as well as other responsibilities as an ETC designee or under the Commission’s rules and the Communications Act, including changes in management, technology, debt, or other matters.” Dec. 16 Supplement at 1. In addition, Applicants state that Bandit MidCo, “in and through the newly acquired WOW Parent subsidiaries, including Licensees, receiving high-cost support, will be responsible for meeting public interest responsibilities and obligations of the WOW Parent subsidiaries receiving high-cost support, including all administrative, performance, and deployment obligations and deadlines associated with the WOW Parent subsidiaries’ receipt of support, regardless of any preexisting or reasonably foreseeable conditions that could impact any of these WOW Parent subsidiaries’ abilities to meet their legal obligations, including any technical, marketplace, and on-the-ground conditions.” *Id.* Finally, Applicants state that, after consummation of the proposed transaction, Bandit MidCo may become “indirectly responsible in and through the newly acquired WOW Parent subsidiaries, for any consequences for noncompliance, regardless of whether the circumstances giving rise to such consequences pre-date or post-date the consummation of the transaction, including default recovery of support and potential forfeiture penalties, in all supported areas.” *Id.*