

Media update - Fencing work taking place to begin visibly stabilizing Camp Hope

WSDOT, our agency partners, the Department of Commerce and the Washington State Patrol, and local resource providers are making visible progress towards stabilizing Camp Hope as we work towards the longer-term shared community goal of closing the encampment as part of the statewide [Right of Way Safety Initiative](#). This work doesn't happen overnight and it is because of discussions and funding that began in the spring that we're at these new milestones.

Jewels Helping Hands, along with those living at Camp Hope, began work earlier this week to clear and push back the border of Camp Hope to create the space necessary for fencing. This work also included trash clean up and re-arranging RVs. Now that this preparation is complete, WSDOT's contractor has begun the process of installing fencing, which is expected to take up to 24 hours.

Fencing is an important first step to help address safety and security challenges felt both within and outside of the encampment. Fencing benefits include better access control and management for those that enter and exit the encampment, prevents site growth, helps better manage the site overall and acts as a deterrent for "bad actors" to enter the encampment, creates safer separation from outside vehicles and protects those within and outside of the encampment.

It's important to highlight this shared cooperation between those living homeless within Camp Hope, one of our service providers and WSDOT as it represents mutual collaboration to improve conditions for those within and outside of Camp Hope. While this work begins the process of strategically decreasing the size and footprint of Camp Hope, there is more to do including RV removal, encampment identification/badging, a curfew and other associated rules and an increased security presence within the neighborhood. We continue to work with the city and local partners to identify viable housing solutions for all of those living homeless within Camp Hope.

We are actively working on a timeline for the aforementioned steps and will share once we have more information.

Please refer to our blog for more details on the state's Right of Way Safety Initiative.

