



United States Capitol Visitor Center

Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol, March 10, 2003

This Month – March 2003

East Front (Inside the Capitol)

- **The 2nd and 3rd Floor corridors within the East Front Extension will be closed beginning March 17, 2003**, to clear the way for CVC construction activity, including improvements to vertical mobility (new elevators and stairwells) within the Capitol. **The elevator at each end of the construction zone, H-10 on the House side, S-7 on the Senate side, will be removed from service at this time.** The stairwells next to each elevator will remain accessible throughout construction and will continue to serve as emergency access routes.
- **The Basement corridor within the East Front Extension will be closed beginning March 31, 2003.** All East Front corridors affected by construction will be re-opened near the final completion stage of the CVC in 2005. Additional details will be provided through Capitol Superintendent Building Notices and CVC construction notices, as well as postings in the affected corridors
- Later this week, information related to new staff-led tour routes will be distributed to all offices.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 3/10/03 through 3/14/03

- This week, test pits will continue to be excavated along portions of East Capitol Street to accommodate CVC utility work. Work began near First Street and is continuing eastward toward Second Street. Impacts of this work on parking have been coordinated with the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress. Traffic will be constricted at times around the construction zone but traffic flow in both directions will be maintained at all times.
- Significant tunnel construction activity continues in New Jersey Avenue NW, along Constitution Ave. NW, along upper Northwest Drive and on the East Front Plaza (details provided below).

East Front Plaza Work

- Major excavation of the site has begun on the Senate side within the northeast corner of the site.
- Construction of the CVC foundation walls continues on both the House and Senate sides of the site and approximately **90 percent** of the panels on the Senate side, and **65 percent** on the House side, are in place.
- Demolition work has been completed below the first floor windows on the House side.

House Side

- Crews will continue construction of a CVC tunnel connector to the existing Cannon Tunnel near the House Steps and Carriageway. A new drive loop and Member drop-off area have been established just south of the existing drive loop and Member drop-off area. The Carriageway Door, the House Door and the House Steps will remain accessible at all times. At the completion of the tunnel work, which is expected in three to four months, the drive loop will revert to its current alignment adjacent to the House Carriageway.

Senate Side (Outside the Main Construction Fence)

Tunnel Construction:

- A second crane is being assembled within the tunnel construction zone on the East Front Plaza. The 90-foot high crane will support large counter-rotating drill bits (augers) that will be used for excavation.
- CVC tunnel construction work continues on the East Front Plaza adjacent to and within the Senate triangular parking area. The tunnel construction work on the Plaza will continue until December 2003.

- Excavation work related to the CVC service tunnel continues in Constitution Avenue NW just east of the intersection of New Jersey Avenue NW. The tunnel work in this zone will continue for several months.
- CVC tunnel construction work continues along the east side of New Jersey Avenue NW between Constitution Avenue and C Street. The east sidewalk in this location will continue to be closed, but the west sidewalk is accessible. The street will continue to be restricted to one lane and one way traffic traveling southbound.

Senate-Side Utility Work:

- An 80-foot section of Second Street NE, between Massachusetts Ave. NE and D Street NE, will remain closed temporarily to clear the way for CVC utility work in this zone. Detour signs have been posted to safely re-route traffic around the construction zone. The sidewalk along the east side of Second Street NE is open for pedestrian access through the construction zone. The work in this zone will be completed later this month.
- Utility work on First Street NE between C and D Streets has been completed.
- The North Door, the Senate Steps and the Senate Carriageway Door remain accessible to pedestrians throughout construction.

Next Week – Anticipated Work – 3/17/03 through 3/21/03

East Front

- **The corridors on the 2nd and 3rd Floor within the East Front Extension will close for CVC construction on Monday, March 17, 2003. The elevator at each end of the construction zone, H-10 on the House side, S-7 on the Senate side, will be removed from service at this time. The stairwells next to each elevator will remain accessible throughout construction and will continue to serve as emergency access routes.**

East Front Plaza Work

- Foundation and guide wall excavation and construction will continue on both the Senate and House sides of the CVC construction site. Some large equipment will continue to be situated close to the east face of the Capitol building. The East Front facade is being protected by a protective tarp that is being suspended from the Capitol roof along the portion of the building where excavation work is occurring.
- Major excavation of the site continues on the Senate side within the northeast corner of the site.
- Test pits will continue to be excavated along portions of East Capitol Street to accommodate CVC utility work.

House Side (Outside the Construction Fence)

- Crews will continue construction of a CVC connector tunnel to the existing Cannon Tunnel near the House Steps. The Carriageway Door, the House Door and the House Steps will remain accessible at all times.

Senate Side (Outside the Construction Fence)

- CVC tunnel work will continue in a portion of the East Front Plaza on the Senate side, Northwest Drive, along New Jersey Avenue NW, and in Constitution Avenue NW, just east of New Jersey Avenue NW.
- Utility work will continue along Second Street NE between Massachusetts Avenue NE and D Street NE. This portion of Second Street will remain closed to vehicular traffic. The sidewalk along the east side of Second Street NE within the construction zone will remain accessible to pedestrians at all times.

*- If you have any questions about the Capitol Visitor Center Project, please contact **Tom Fontana**, CVC Project Communications Officer for the Architect of the Capitol, at (202) 228-1310, or by e-mail at: tfontana@aac.gov. You can read this document and previous editions on our web site at www.aoc.gov.*

- If you experience any problems to building services inside the Capitol, please contact the Capitol Building Service Center at (202) 228-8800.