



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol, August 4, 2003



Excavation continues in the east-central portion of the CVC site to clear the way for the Congressional Auditorium. Much of the CVC site adjacent to the perimeter walls is down to its base depth of 50 feet. Some elevated paths need to be maintained for truck traffic.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 8/04/03 through 8/08/03

Highlights:

- Excavation has reached its base depth of 50 feet in the southwest corner of the project site and utility installation has begun at this location.
- A crew has poured a test “caisson,” which is a 4-foot-diameter, 20-foot-deep concrete footing. More than 160 caissons will be poured to support all of the steel and concrete columns that will be erected on the site. Crews are expected to begin erecting the first of 132 50-foot-high steel columns at the end of August.
- More than 500 truckloads of material continue to be removed from the site each day and the perimeter slurry wall (2,080 linear feet) of the CVC is complete.

East Front Plaza Work

- Site excavation continues throughout the project site. Crews have reached a depth of 50 feet at several locations on both sides of the site and utility installation has begun in the southwest quadrant of the site.
- A crew has installed a test “caisson” (see “Highlights” above for description) and 35 more caissons will be poured during the next few weeks in anticipation of the arrival of steel columns at the end of the month.

- The first of 132 steel columns is expected to be erected near the end of the month. Horizontal roof beams will be connected as the vertical columns are erected, so a portion of the roof structure of the CVC will begin to take shape as early as September.
- Installation of tie-backs continues throughout the site. The tie-backs, which can measure up to 110 feet, are inserted through the perimeter walls and anchored into the surrounding terrain. Close to 85 percent of 494 tie-backs have been installed.
- The earth retention wall around the Congressional Auditorium has been completed and excavation continues at this location.



East Front Extension (Inside the Capitol)

- Demolition of architectural and structural elements continues in the basement and sub-basement within the East Front Extension. The work will clear the way for the transition zone between the CVC and the Capitol, which will include escalators, stairwells and two 25-passenger elevators.

At right: Spiderman? No, just a construction worker tying together steel rods that will form the skeleton of a caisson, which is a concrete base that will support each of the steel columns to be erected on the site. The steel cage will be lifted vertically and lowered into a pre-dug 20-foot-deep cylindrical trench.

Senate Side (Outside the Main Construction Fence)

Truck Tunnel Construction:

- CVC truck tunnel construction work continues on the East Front Plaza adjacent to and within the Senate triangular parking area, along Constitution Avenue NW just east of the intersection of New Jersey Avenue NW, and along the east side of New Jersey Avenue NW between Constitution Avenue and C Street NW.

Next Week – Anticipated Work – 8/11/03 through 8/15/03

East Front Plaza Work

- Excavation and installation of tie-backs will continue throughout the CVC construction site. Installation of utilities and caissons will continue in the southwest quadrant of the site.



East Front (Inside the Capitol Building)

- Demolition of architectural and structural elements will continue in the basement and sub-basement within the East Front Extension.

Senate Side (Outside the CVC Construction Fence)

- CVC truck tunnel work will continue in a portion of the East Front Plaza on the Senate side, along Upper Northwest Drive, along New Jersey Avenue NW, and in Constitution Avenue NW, just east of New Jersey Avenue NW.

Left: A crew installs a tieback through one of the steel support columns that help hold back earth around the area to be occupied by the Congressional Auditorium

- 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@ao.gov. You can read this document and previous editions on our web site at www.aoc.gov.