



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol, September 2, 2003

This Week – Ongoing Work – 9/1/03 through 9/5/03

Highlights:

- Excavation has reached its base depth of 50 feet throughout most of the southern half of the site.
- **Crews have installed 46 caissons in the southwest quadrant.** Eventually, 165 caissons will be poured to support all of the steel and concrete columns that will be erected on the CVC site.
- **Weather permitting, the first steel columns will be erected this week.**

East Front Plaza Work

- Between 500 and 600 truckloads of soil continue to be excavated and removed each day. Excavation is close to 80 percent complete as 400,000 cubic yards of soil have been removed.
- Installation of tie-backs continues along the north side of the Capitol. **Only 8 tie-backs remain to be installed out of a total of 494.**
- The first steel columns are expected to be erected this week. Horizontal roof beams will be connected to the vertical columns as they are erected and a portion of the roof structure of the CVC will begin to take shape by late September.
- Excavation continues below the existing Russell Tunnel to clear the way for the CVC truck tunnel.

East Front Extension (Inside the Capitol)

- Demolition of architectural and structural elements continues on several levels 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.

Senate Side (Truck Tunnel Zone)

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, and along the east side of New Jersey Avenue NW between Constitution Avenue and C Street NW.

Next Week – Anticipated Work – 9/8/03 through 9/12/03

East Front Plaza Work

- Excavation 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, sub-basement and upper floors within the East Front Extension.

Senate Side (Outside the CVC Construction Fence)

- CVC truck tunnel work will continue in all areas of the tunnel construction zone.

*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 (click on the "Capitol Visitor Center" link in the project list).*

See the next page for aerial photos of the CVC project site before and after construction began.

One year ago...

This photo taken August 22, 2002, shows the East Front Plaza just before major excavation began. The Sequence 1 contractor, Centex Construction Company, is responsible for the CVC foundation and structure and had just completed situating trailers and equipment within the landscaped portions of the East Capitol Grounds. Most of the utility relocation had been completed and within a few days, back-hoes began peeling back the asphalt paving in the center of the Plaza. Tree protection fencing, clearly visible here, was erected early in 2002.



Right: Ground-level view of the East Front Plaza in September 2002.



One year later...

By August 14, 2003, crews had completed 2,100 linear feet of concrete perimeter wall and had installed close to 500 tie-backs. In addition, excavation crews have now removed more than 400,000 cubic yards of material (40,000 truckloads) from both the East Plaza and the north side of the Capitol, where the truck tunnel is being constructed (top right of photo). With excavation 80 percent complete, crews will begin erecting steel columns the first week of September. Personnel have been relocated out of the East Front Extension and interior demolition is continuing on all levels. Finally, the Sequence 2 contractor, Manhattan Construction Company, is now on site. The Sequence 2 work involves installation of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, building fit-out and all interior and exterior finishes.



Right: The East Front Plaza within the CVC footprint is now 50 feet below grade.

