



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



Prepared by the Capitol Visitor Center Project Office, Architect of the Capitol

September 22, 2003



With the exception of just a few pools of water, the effects of Hurricane Isabel are scarcely noticeable on the CVC construction site. This photo, taken September 22, 2003, shows the steel framing of the CVC as it progresses northward. Steel roof decking is already in place above most of the southernmost portion of the site and steel framing is now visible adjacent to the Capitol façade. The framing for the first of the CVC's four smaller skylights is also visible in the center of the photo. Two larger skylights above the Great Hall will be framed later this fall.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 9/22/03 through 9/26/03

Highlights:

- The CVC site suffered no significant damages as a result of Hurricane Isabel. Some minor damages that did occur, primarily to the perimeter fence, have been repaired and pumps were used throughout the site to keep water accumulations to a minimum. Excavation and other activities are again moving at full speed.
- Steel framing is now visible adjacent to the Capitol façade and the first of four smaller skylights has been framed.
- Crews will continue to erect columns and secure crossbeams in the southwest quadrant. Corrugated steel roof decking will be installed as framing continues. Approximately 40 steel columns have been erected.
- Crews have installed more than 70 caissons in the southern half of the site. Eventually, 165 caissons will be poured to support all of the steel and concrete columns that will be erected on the CVC site.
- Portions of a large tower crane will begin to arrive on site late this week. The crane will be situated within the CVC site just east of the original House wing.

East Front Plaza Work

- Crews will continue to erect steel columns in the southern half of the CVC site during the week. Steel erection work will occur in spurts over the next few months as areas are cleared for installation and as steel is delivered to the site.
- Between 300 and 400 truckloads of soil continue to be excavated and removed each day.
- Excavation continues below the existing Russell Tunnel to clear the way for the CVC truck tunnel. Steel support beams are being installed below the tunnel slab to ensure its stability.



A worker secures a steel crossbeam to a column in the southwest quadrant of the CVC site.

East Front Extension (Inside the Capitol)

- Demolition of 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. Excavation is approximately 70 percent complete in this zone.

Next Week – Anticipated Work – 9/29/03 through 10/03/03

East Front Plaza Work

- Crews will continue to erect steel columns and crossbeams, and install roof decking in the southern half of the site.
- Excavation will continue throughout the northern half of the CVC construction site. Installation of caissons will continue in the central portion of the site.



- A large tower crane will be assembled on site in the southwest quadrant.

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

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

In anticipation of Hurricane Isabel, some additional welding was done to secure steel roof decking to the main structure.

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).