



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



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

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With Members and staff returning from recess this week, the aerial photos below are intended to provide a “snapshot” overview of the CVC project by comparing the construction progress from one year ago (below) with the current status (bottom photo). The standard synopsis of activities scheduled to occur this week and next is included on the second page of this construction summary.

One year ago...

August 2003

This view of the CVC site, taken late August 2003, shows the project footprint delineated by a concrete perimeter wall. Most of the excavation was complete, but interior work would not begin until September 5, 2003, when the first steel column was raised on the site. Close to 40,000 truck-loads of soil had been removed from the site, but persistently wet weather throughout 2003 often slowed the excavation process to a crawl. The excavation trench for a new truck/service tunnel can be seen in the upper right corner.



August 2004

This view of the CVC site taken two weeks ago shows nearly three quarters of the roof deck in place while the installation of granite paving stones on the western half of the deck is well underway. The interior walls for the visitor screening zone can be seen in the center of the photo as well as the walls and roof of the Congressional Auditorium (center foreground). Below the roof, most of the concrete floor slabs for the CVC's three levels have been completed and interior utility work is progressing. The entrance structure and a portion of the base slab for the Library of Congress pedestrian tunnel is also visible to the left of the Congressional Auditorium.



This Week – Ongoing Work – 9/06/04 through 9/10/04

East Front Plaza Highlights:

- Crews continue to build mechanical spaces, erect formwork, pour concrete, and install utilities throughout the site.
- During the recess, nearly all the concrete was placed for the roof of the Congressional Auditorium.
- Stone masons continue laying granite pavers on the CVC roof deck. The pavers will cover the entire western half of the CVC roof deck in time for the inauguration in January 2005.
- Crews continue to place steel beams and roof decking sheets in the eastern half of the site above the visitor screening zone. Most of the interior concrete walls in the screening zone have been completed.
- The CVC roof deck over the entire site is expected to be in place by the end of October.



During the recess, stone crews laid approximately 30,000 granite pavers, which are now visible throughout the western half of the CVC roof deck.

East Front Extension (Inside the Capitol)

- Crews continue to erect structural steel inside the East Front Extension and continue with demolition activities to clear the way for elevator shafts, escalators, stairwells and new mechanical systems.
- Installation of new mechanical systems will begin this week.

Truck Tunnel Construction/Constitution Avenue

- The concrete roof of the truck tunnel is now complete.
- As concrete cures and is waterproofed, crews will continue backfilling near the south end below the Senate plaza.
- Dump trucks continue to backfill the area above the tunnel along Northwest Drive.
- Utility work in the Senate plaza parking area was partially completed during the recess, but all spaces are available.

Library of Congress (LOC) Tunnel

- Crews will continue assembling formwork for the tunnel walls along the western half of the tunnel within the CVC site.

Next Week – 9/13/04 - 9/17/04

East Front Plaza Work

- Workers will continue placing the granite paving stones on the CVC roof deck.
- Workers will continue to install utilities, build mechanical spaces, erect formwork and place concrete for lower and upper level floor slabs in the northern half of the site.
- Steel crews will continue to install the columns, beams and roof decking sheets for the eastern half of the CVC roof deck.

East Front Extension

- Steel crews will continue to erect steel within the East Front concrete structure. Demolition of structural elements will continue on all levels within the East Front Extension and in the Carriageway below the East Front portico.

Truck Tunnel Construction

- Workers will continue to backfill above the tunnel roof as concrete cures and is waterproofed. The bulk of work will occur where the tunnel passes below the Senate Plaza and at its connection point with the CVC near the Senate Steps. Restoration of portions of Northwest Drive will begin.

Library of Congress (LOC) Tunnel

- Formwork assembly, concrete placements and waterproofing will continue in various zones along the LOC tunnel route. Pedestrian access will continue along the east side of the work zone on First St. SE.