



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 the slab-on-grade in place in the southeast quadrant of the CVC site (foreground), crews continue assembling formwork for the Lower Level floor slab. Meanwhile, 50-foot-long plastic tarps, in combination with propane heaters below the roof deck structure, help maintain the temperature below the roof deck above the freezing point for seven consecutive days—a condition necessary for concrete to cure properly. Weather permitting, crews will complete two significant concrete placements on the northern half of the roof deck this week.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 2/23/04 through 2/27/04

East Front Plaza Highlights:

- Crews have completed placing the first of two concrete slabs over the entire southern half of the steel roof deck and are now applying the waterproofing membrane on the concrete that has cured sufficiently for 28 days. Meanwhile, concrete placements are now occurring throughout the northern half of the roof deck.
- Crews continue to assemble the formwork for both the Lower and Upper level floor slabs above the slab on grade throughout the southern half of the site, and concrete placements will continue on all three levels.
- Crews continue to build mechanical spaces, erect formwork, excavate and install utilities throughout the site.



After digging with shovels and buckets, workers use a small rail car to remove material from a new utility tunnel on the north side of the CVC site.

East Front Extension (Inside the Capitol)

- Crews will continue to erect structural steel inside the East Front. As steel is erected, demolition crews will remove adjacent portions of the floor slabs and interior walls to clear the way for elevator shafts, stairwells and new mechanical systems.
- Within the next two weeks, crews are expected to begin demolishing some of the large concrete structural columns supporting the East Front Center Steps (*see photo and caption below*).



A CVC crew guides a massive steel support beam in place below the East Front Center Steps. Once the beam is secured to new steel support columns (far left and right), crews will remove the two large center concrete columns (center of the photo) that were built in 1958-62 when the East Front was extended 32 feet. The column demolition will clear the way for installation of a grand staircase and escalators that will connect the CVC to the Capitol at the Crypt level.

Senate Side (Truck Tunnel Zone)

Truck Tunnel Construction:

- Crews continue to assemble rebar and formwork for the tunnel walls and roof deck. Concrete pours will occur for the next several weeks.

Library of Congress Tunnel

- First Street SE has been constricted by construction barriers along the LOC tunnel route, but one lane of traffic is being maintained in each direction. No change in the lane configuration will occur this week.
- Crews will continue installing "soldier" piles to support the sides of the LOC tunnel before excavation occurs.
- Crews will continue assembling the formwork for the floor slab and walls of the tunnel at its westernmost end adjacent to the slurry wall just south of the CVC south entrance ramp.

Next Week – 3/01/04 - 3/05/04

East Front Plaza Work

- Crews will continue to install roof decking, lay rebar and place concrete on the roof deck in the northern half of the site.
- Crews will continue install utilities, build mechanical spaces, erect formwork and place concrete floor slabs.

East Front Extension (Inside the Capitol)

- Steel crews will also continue to erect steel to support the East Front Steps and other portions of 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 Center Steps. Demolition of major structural columns is expected to begin.

Senate Side (Truck Tunnel Zone)

- Crews will continue to erect formwork and place concrete in all areas of the truck tunnel construction zone.

Library of Congress Tunnel

- Crews are expected to complete pile placement and excavation across First Street SE is expected to begin.
- Formwork assembly will continue near the LOC tunnel entrance within the CVC site.

If you have any questions about the Capitol Visitor Center Project, please contact Tom Fontana, CVC project communications officer, at (202) 228-1310, or by e-mail at tfontana@ao.gov. You can read this document and previous editions on the CVC web site at www.aoc.gov.