



# United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



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

August 8, 2005



**House:** On the East Front Plaza near the House wing, preliminary work has begun on the construction of an underground tunnel that will connect the House wing to the Capitol Visitor Center. Above, a back-hoe is used to excavate a pit for a new manhole – part of the utility relocation work necessary in this work zone.



**Senate:** The asphalt for the temporary Senate Plaza parking lot in front of the Senate wing is being demolished to clear the way for plaza restoration activities, including installation of granite pavers and historic elements, and to restore the Senate triangle, a landscaped area that had been removed for the construction of the CVC truck tunnel.

## **This Week – Ongoing Work – 8/08/05 through 8/12/05**

### **CVC and East Front Plaza:**

- Workers continue to install mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, erect masonry block work and metal stud walls, place concrete, install finish stone, and apply plaster to interior corridors.
- Interior metal stud framing for the walls and ceiling is substantially complete in the food services areas and framing crews are now in the Congressional Auditorium.
- Exterior wall stonework will continue along the pedestrian ramp on the south side of the CVC entrance zone. Crews will begin installing the cap stone along the top of the north pedestrian wall.
- Stone crews will continue installing finish stone to the masonry block walls on the north and east ends of the Great Hall.
- Stone installation will continue inside the south Orientation Theater and layout has begun in the north Orientation Theater.
- Installation of piping and support steel continues adjacent to the CVC's 20 air handling units.
- Masons have completed installation of the stone benches along the East Capitol Street Extension.
- Construction of a small underground tunnel that will connect the House wing directly to the Capitol Visitor Center will continue adjacent to the House Steps and House Carriageway. Signs have been posted on the fencing to identify this work, which includes some utility relocation. Access will be maintained at all times to the House Carriageway Member and Staff Entrance, the South Door Entrance and the House Steps. Member parking will not be affected.
- Demolition of the Senate Plaza parking lot has begun and will continue through the recess. The temporary parking lot on the Senate Plaza will no longer be available. This restriction will clear the way for Capitol Visitor Center construction crews to complete East Plaza activities, including installation of granite pavers and historic elements, and to restore the Senate triangle, a landscaped area that had been removed for the construction of the CVC truck tunnel. On September 6, 2005, following the recess, vehicle access through the Senate Carriageway will become available for Member drop-off. Member drop-off locations on the Senate Plaza will change occasionally through mid-fall 2005 to accommodate the execution of adjacent construction activities. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times to the North Door Entrance and the Senate Carriageway Member and Staff Entrance.



A CVC crew places concrete around the large skylight on the north side of the East Front Plaza. The slab will be waterproofed and will support a slowly-moving pool of water that will be surrounded by an 18-inch seat wall. The skylight glass will be in place later this fall.

### **East Front Extension**

- Crews will continue installation of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems.

### **East Capitol Street Utility Tunnel**

- First Street continues to be constricted to clear the way for construction of a temporary bridge in this zone. One lane of traffic will be maintained in each direction at all times. The sidewalk along the west side of First Street NE/SE (Capitol side) has been closed for the bridge construction. Access for pedestrians and persons with disabilities is available on the east side of First Street (along the Supreme Court and Library of Congress).
- Pile installation will continue at the east end of the tunnel near its connection to existing utilities at Second Street. Excavation at the east end of the tunnel (near First Street) is nearing completion.

## **Next Week – 8/15/05 – 8/19/05**

### **CVC and East Front Plaza Work**

- Crews will continue to install ductwork and piping for all heating, cooling, supply, waste water, fire protection, and electrical systems; build mechanical spaces, install cable trays, place concrete, erect blockwork and metal stud walls, and install finish stone in areas on all three levels of the CVC.
- Exterior wall stone installation will continue along the south side of the CVC entrance zone and stone installation will continue on the steps at the north side of the CVC entrance.
- Construction of a small underground tunnel that will connect the House wing directly to the Capitol Visitor Center will continue adjacent to the House Steps and House Carriageway.
- Demolition and restoration activities will continue in the temporary Senate Plaza parking lot.

### **East Front Extension**

- Crews will continue to install mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems.

### **East Capitol Street Utility Tunnel**

- Construction of a temporary bridge will continue at First Street over the new utility tunnel. Lane constrictions and pedestrian detours along First Street NE/SE will continue for several months. Motorists are urged to proceed with caution and pedestrians should obey all sidewalk detour signs through the work zone.

*If you have any questions about the Capitol Visitor Center project, please contact Tom Fontana, Communications Officer, at (202) 228-1310, or by e-mail at [fontana@oc.gov](mailto:fontana@oc.gov). You can read this document and previous editions on the CVC web site at [www.oc.gov](http://www.oc.gov).*