



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



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

August 22, 2005



Stone masons install a sandstone block to the screen wall inside the Capitol Visitor Center's south Orientation Theater.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 8/22/05 through 8/26/05

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.
- Stone crews will continue installing finish stone to the masonry block walls on the north side of the Great Hall and sandstone blocks now rise close to 30 feet on the north wall of the Hall.
- Stone installation will continue inside the two Orientation Theaters (south Orientation Theater depicted above).
- 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. 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 is 99 percent complete. Measurements have been taken of the existing concrete slab below the asphalt and the slab is now being evaluated for its suitability to receive granite pavers and other Plaza restoration elements. On September 6, 2005, following the recess, vehicle access through the Senate Carriageway will become available for Member drop-off. During this work pedestrian access will be maintained at all times to the North Door Entrance and the Senate Carriageway Member and Staff Entrance.
- **Northwest Drive will be closed to vehicles this coming weekend, August 27-28, 2005**, to allow a paint crew to re-stripe parking spaces along the length of the street. Northwest Drive will be available for parking on Monday, August 29, 2005.

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 is being 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 – 8/29/05 – 9/02/05

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 may begin on the monumental steps at the north side of the CVC entrance.
- Crews may begin erecting an exterior hoist (elevator for transport of materials) just north of the East Front Center Steps in front of the original Senate Wing. The hoist will be used to transport masonry blocks and other construction materials to all levels of the East Front Extension, which serves as the primary transition zone between the Capitol and the Visitor Center.
- 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. Access will be maintained at all times to the House Carriageway Member and Staff Entrance, the South Door Entrance and the House Steps.
- Restoration of the Senate Plaza will continue pending the review of the existing concrete slab that has been revealed following the completion of asphalt demolition of the former temporary Senate Parking Lot. Pedestrian access will be maintained at all times to the North Door Entrance and the Senate Carriageway Member and Staff Entrance.

East Front Extension

- Installation of concrete masonry blocks may begin on two levels in the East Front Extension.

East Capitol Street Utility Tunnel

- Construction may be completed of a temporary bridge over the new utility tunnel at First Street. 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.



Workers inside the Congressional Auditorium pull telecommunications wires through openings that lie below the seating area within the facility. When completed, the Auditorium will feature state-of-the-art audio/visual technology and can serve as an alternate House or Senate Chamber if needed.