



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



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

August 29, 2005



In the center of the East Front Plaza, a stone mason positions a granite block that is part of the base of one of two historic fountains.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 8/29/05 through 9/02/05

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 spaces.
- Stone crews will continue installing finish stone to the masonry block walls on the north side of the Great Hall.
- Stone installation will continue inside both Orientation Theaters.
- The installation of marble tile has been completed in two restrooms, which will serve as mock-ups for other restrooms.
- 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.
- Demolition of the Senate Plaza parking lot is complete as well as the installation of a new fire hydrant near the Senate Steps. Work will begin to partially restore the deck and place a concrete slab that will accommodate vehicular traffic. 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.
- On the north grounds of the Capitol, Northwest Drive will be closed Friday, September 2, to allow a paint crew to re-stripe parking spaces along the length of the street. Northwest Drive will be available for parking when Members and staff return on Tuesday, September 6. Wet weather last weekend required this work to be rescheduled.



Near the Great Hall, a technician works on the installation of one of the CVC's 23 elevators. The facility also includes six escalators.

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 is nearing completion.

Next Week – 9/05/05 – 9/09/05

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.
- 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.
- Partial restoration of the Senate Plaza will continue and a concrete slab will be in place to accommodate vehicle access when Members and staff return on September 6, 2005. Please note that parking will no longer be available on the Senate Plaza and construction activity will continue to occur in this zone through next summer.

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 tfontana@oc.gov. You can read this document and previous editions on the CVC web site at www.oc.gov.