



# United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



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

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**Waterproofing? Actually, yes.** A worker uses a blowtorch to seal the tar layers of waterproofing material on the monumental steps located on the south side of the CVC entrance zone. Once the waterproofing is complete later this week, masons will begin setting the granite step stones.

## **This Week – Ongoing Work – 12/12/05 through 12/16/05**

### **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 stone inside the Great Hall on the east-side columns and along the east walls, and in the 30-foot-high thresholds between the columns on the west side of the Hall. Other stone work continues in the corridors of the Congressional Auditorium, while several mason teams are working along the north, south and west walls in the Exhibition Gallery.
- In the orientation theaters, workers are installing the metal stud walls that will support the separate wood and acoustic fabric panels. When completed, both Orientation Theaters will feature state-of-the-art surround sound systems.
- Crews are installing masonry block units on the basement and Crypt levels within the East Front of the Capitol and around the original concrete columns to prepare the zone for installation of stone and other finish materials.
- Workers are installing mechanical systems in the East Front (ductwork and electrical conduit) and have begun installing the rails for two 25-passenger elevators on the north side of the East Front.
- On the Service Level, crews continue to make the electrical, duct and piping connections to the air handling units, fans and other mechanical equipment. Workers are installing insulation on all water lines.

- Inside the House and Senate Expansion Space, crews continue to install mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, place floor topping slabs, and erect metal stud walls and drywall. Much of the block work and metal stud-walls are now complete on the upper level of the House Expansion space and in the middle level of the Senate space.
- A stone crew will continue installing granite blocks on the south retaining wall leading to the CVC entrance.
- Foundation work continues below the House Carriageway as part of the effort to construct a small underground tunnel that will connect the House wing directly to House expansion space.
- Crews continue to lay granite pavers in various zones on the Senate Plaza and along the sidewalk leading to the Senate Steps as restoration activities continue.



A stone mason trims a piece of sandstone at the north end of the Visitor Center Exhibition Hall.

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

- First Street continues to be constricted at the intersection with East Capitol Street to allow for utility work in this zone.

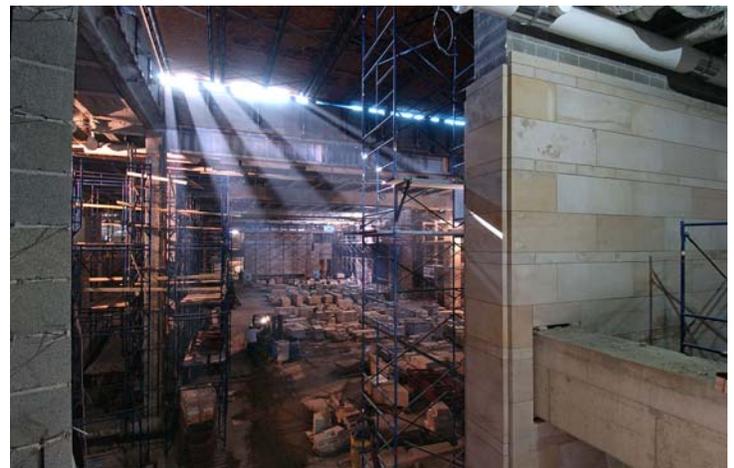
Excavation near an existing gas line below First Street is complete and Washington Gas is working in that zone to reconfigure the gas line over the new utility tunnel. This work is expected to be completed later this week.

- The utility connections to steam and chilled water lines at Second Street are ongoing and concrete placements for the walls and roof slab at Second Street around the utility connection points will occur this week. Concrete placements may occur in two weeks at First Street pending the completion of the Washington Gas work. Most of the pipe is now in place within the 750-foot-long utility tunnel and welding will continue into February.

## **Next Week – 12/19/05 – 12/23/05**

### **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 the upper and middle levels of the facility.
- Installation and welding of pipe will continue inside the new utility tunnel along East Capitol Street between First and Second Streets. Related utility tie-in work and concrete placements will continue at First and Second Streets. Weather permitting, Washington Gas will complete the reconfiguration of an existing line that lies within the path of the new utility tunnel.
- Crews will continue installing mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, metal stud walls, drywall, underslab conduit, ductwork and floor topping slabs in the House and Senate Expansion Space.
- Demolition and removal of foundation stone will continue below the House Carriageway as part of the construction of a small underground tunnel that will connect the House wing directly to the Capitol Visitor Center.
- Masons will continue installing granite pavers to restore the Senate Plaza and the adjacent sidewalk.



Sunlight peeks into the Great Hall through a gap between a temporary cover over one of two 30'x70' skylights. The sandstone wall at right lines the escalator bank on the south side of the Hall.

Clockwise from right: duct installation in the East Front; duct installation in the Senate Expansion space; metal stud wall assembly in the South Orientation Theater; plaster work in the Library of Congress Tunnel, and masonry block unit construction in the East Front.

