



# United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



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

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Workers assemble a steel frame that will support a raised glass floor in the CVC Exhibition Hall. The glass will be illuminated from below and produce a gentle glow around two marble walls that will house historic documents related to key moments in our nation's legislative history.

## **This Week – Ongoing Work – 3/13/06 through 3/17/06**

### **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.
- On the upper level, just east of the Great Hall, stone masons will continue to setting wall stone in the CVC entrance lobby. Within the next two weeks, wall stone should be completed in this zone and masons will then move to the opposite side of the Great Hall into the East Front transition area.
- Workers will continue to erect scaffolding in the Great Hall and have begun framing the Hall's barrel-vaulted ceiling.
- Workers have assembled the steel framework for a raised glass floor in the Exhibition Hall (see photo above). Floor stone work is expected to begin in the Exhibit Hall next week.
- Inside the East Front, crews continue layout of the base stone while masonry block crews complete work in the Carriageway. Within two weeks, approximately six mason teams are expected to begin setting stone in the East Front transition zone, beginning at the lower level eventually working up two levels to the Rotunda level of the Capitol. A mock-up wall using stone from a new quarry has been approved for this zone.
- Concrete crews are working on the foundation for the stepped walkways leading to the CVC entrances from First Street NE/SE. Next week, crews will install a new irrigation system and prepare the tree planter beds within the foundation work in preparation of new trees that will be planted in early April. The trees will be planted first on the north side where foundation work is nearly complete. Similar work on the south side of the Congressional Auditorium will follow by two weeks and a total of 34 new trees are expected to be planted before the end of April.

- Inside the House and Senate Expansion Space, crews continue to install mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, and erect metal stud walls and drywall. Masons have begun layout out for base stone in the stairwell atrium on the House side. This atrium will be illuminated by one of the four smaller skylights on the East Front Plaza. On the House side, ceiling grid installation will begin on the upper two levels during the next two weeks and wall framing on the service level is expected to be complete by the end of March. On the Senate side, framework for the new Senate Recording Studio on the upper level is nearly 90 percent complete and drywall installation has begun in this area.
- Foundation work continues as part of the effort to construct a small underground tunnel that will connect the House wing directly to House expansion space. Underpinning work is complete and the last of three footings is being demolished.



**Masons are nearing completion of stone installation in the upper level east lobby that looks over the Great Hall. Several mason teams will then move to the other side of the Great hall to work in the East Front transition zone between the CVC and the Capitol Building.**

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

- First Street NE/SE was reopened to traffic late Saturday, March 11, following a temporary closure for utility work.
- Backfill operations continue at Second Street and will continue moving west toward First Street where closure of the tunnel at this location is expected in early April. Street restoration activities, beginning with the placement of a 10-inch concrete slab over the tunnel will begin following the ongoing backfill work at Second Street.
- Crews continue to weld pipes, and install ventilation ductwork and piping insulation inside the tunnel.

## **Next Week – 3/20/06 – 3/24/06**

### **CVC, East Front Plaza Work, East Capitol Street Utility Tunnel**

- 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 of base stone is expected to begin inside the East Front transition zone.
- Crews will continue installing mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, metal stud walls, drywall and ductwork, and continue paint priming in various zones throughout the House and Senate Expansion Space. Stonework is expected to begin in the stairwell atrium on the House side.



- Landscape crews will install an irrigation system and new topsoil in concrete planter beds on the north side of the Congressional Auditorium. The beds will receive new trees in early April and will line a stepped walkway.
- 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 backfilling activities will continue at First and Second Streets.
- Work on a 10-inch concrete slab will continue near Second Street as part of the effort to restore East Capitol Street.

**Workers remove formwork from around a concrete foundation that runs along the north wall of the Congressional Auditorium. In early April, this zone will receive the first of 85 new trees to be planted within the East Capitol Grounds as part of the goal to revive the original historic landscape.**