



# United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



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

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With much of the wall stone installation complete in the Great Hall, Orientation Theaters, Exhibition Hall, Food Service Area and the CVC Entrance Lobby, work on ceilings continues to increase with the assembly of framework, installation of drywall and plaster, and priming of walls for finish paint.

## **This Week – Ongoing Work – 3/20/06 through 3/24/06**

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

- On the upper level, stone masons are nearly complete with setting wall stone in the CVC security entrance lobby. Later this week and next, masons are expected to move from this area to the East Front transition area where blockwork is being completed in the south side of the Carriageway.
- Workers will continue to erect scaffolding in the Great Hall and will continue framing the Hall's barrel-vaulted ceiling.
- Workers are expected to complete the assembly of a steel framework for a raised glass floor in the Exhibition Hall. Floor stone work is expected to begin in the Exhibit Hall at the end of this week.
- Concrete crews have completed the foundation for the stepped walkway leading to the CVC entrance from First Street NE. This week, crews will install a new irrigation system and place soil in the tree planter beds in preparation of new trees that will be planted in early April. Similar work on the south side of the Congressional Auditorium will follow by two weeks with a total of 32 new trees expected to be planted before the end of this April.
- Two large oval bronze fountains designed by Frederick Law Olmsted in the 1870s are expected to return to the site by mid-week. Crews will set the fountains within the elliptical stone framework already restored on the central plaza.
- The first portion of a retaining "seatwall" at the northeast corner of the House egg (grassy oval) has been approved and work will move out from this wall in both directions. Work on the North seatwall will begin upon completion of the south wall. Meanwhile, masons continue to lay granite pavers on the plaza and have begun setting the stones in a hering-bone pattern adjacent to the bronze rails already in place along the south edge of the Senate egg.

- Throughout the CVC portion of the project area, crews continue to install ceiling framework, drywall and plaster.
- 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 setting 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.
- Wall “close-in” inspection work continues to be the dominant activity on the upper and lower level of the Senate Expansion Space and will begin soon in the Service Level of the House Expansion Space.
- Underpinning work is complete for the foundation of a small underground tunnel that will connect the House wing directly to House expansion space. The last of three footings has been demolished.



**On the East Front Plaza, masons have begun setting granite pavers in a herringbone pattern along the curving walkway that lines the Senate egg. The steel framework for one of two new elevators can be seen in the background. Eventually, red and gray granite stone will ornament the elevator tower.**

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

- Backfill operations continue at Second Street and will continue moving west toward First Street where closure of the tunnel at this location is expected next week. 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 – 3/27/06 – 3/31/06**

### **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 continue 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 will continue in the stairwell atrium on the House side.
- Crews will place the concrete slabs for a stepped walkway leading to the CVC entrance (on the north side of the Congressional Auditorium) pending the completion this week of a new irrigation system for 18 Tulip Poplar trees to be planted along this path beginning the second week of April. Similar work on the south walkway will follow by two weeks.
- 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 is expected to begin near Second St. as part of the effort to restore East Capitol St.

*For additional information about the Capitol Visitor Center project, please contact Tom Fontana, Project Communications Officer At (202) 228-1310, or by e-mail at [tfontana@aoc.gov](mailto:tfontana@aoc.gov). Other project information is available on the CVC web site at [www.aoc.gov](http://www.aoc.gov).*