



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



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

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On the north side of the CVC entrance zone, crews place fresh soil in planter beds that will soon be the home to 36 new Tulip Poplar trees. The 18-to-27-foot-high trees will line two walkways sloping down from First Street along both sides of the East Capitol Street Extension and will frame a grand view of the Capitol intended by the 1874 landscape plan by the renowned landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 3/27/06 through 3/31/06

CVC and East Front Plaza:

- Masons will continue setting 900-lb. blocks of stone around the interior perimeter of the skylight at the south end of the Great Hall. Installation of the skylight will follow upon completion of this stone work.
- Stone masons have nearly completed setting wall stone in the CVC entrance zone just east end of the Great Hall.
- Masons have begun stone layout in the East Front transition area and blockwork is now complete in this zone.
- Workers have completed scaffold assembly in the Great Hall and will continue framing the Hall's barrel-vaulted ceiling.
- Workers are welding the steel framework for a raised glass floor in the Exhibition Hall. Floor stone installation is expected to begin in the Exhibit Hall this week.
- Crews have completed the concrete foundation work for a stepped walkway leading to the CVC entrance from First Street NE. Pre-cast concrete slabs for the walkway are expected to arrive this week. A total of 32 new trees are expected to be planted along both the north and south walkways (16 on each side) by mid-spring.
- Masons will continue to lay granite pavers on the plaza and will continue setting the stones in a herring-bone pattern along the north and south edges of the East Capitol Street Extension.
- 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 will continue 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 on the upper and lower level of the Senate Expansion Space and may begin later this week in the Service Level of the House Expansion Space.



On a platform elevated 25 feet above the floor, workers continue assembling the metal framework for one of three barrel-vaulted ceiling alcoves in the Great Hall. Eventually, large light fixtures will hang below the ceiling and bounce light off a white plaster ceiling finish.

East Capitol Street Utility Tunnel

- All pre-cast concrete tunnel sections are now in place at First Street and the tunnel is completely closed except for air shaft openings.
- Most of the tunnel has been backfilled and the first 50-foot section of a 10-inch-thick concrete slab has been placed above the east end of the tunnel zone near Second Street. Additional concrete placements are expected later this week and concrete crews will continue moving west toward First Street over the next several weeks.
- Crews continue to weld pipes, and install ventilation ductwork and piping insulation inside the tunnel.
- Electricians are now connecting wiring for fan units, lighting and fire and life-safety systems inside the tunnel.

Next Week – 4/03/06 – 4/07/06

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. Stone installation will continue in the stairwell atrium on the House side and layout may begin in the Senate stairwell atrium.
- Crews are expected to complete final preparatory work along the north wall of the Congressional Auditorium for the arrival of Tulip Poplar trees to be planted there in mid-April. Similar work on the south walkway will follow by two weeks.
- Concrete placements will continue along East Capitol Street between First and Second Streets to restore the road bed.
- Installation and welding of pipe will continue inside the new utility tunnel. Waterproofing activities will continue on the pre-cast concrete sections at First Street in preparation of final backfilling work in this zone.

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@oc.gov. Other project information is available on the CVC web site at www.oc.gov.