



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



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

June 19, 2006



Workers install a grill to a soffit in the ceiling of the Great Hall. Ceiling work has now been completed and crews have begun removing the scaffolding. By early next week, stone masons will be able to begin layout work in the Great Hall for the installation of 20,000 square feet of floor stone.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 6/19/06 through 6/23/06

CVC and East Front Plaza:

- A skylight installation contractor continues installation of the two large skylights above the Great Hall. Both the north and south skylights should be in place by mid-July.
- Drywall installation and plaster work is complete in the three ceiling vaults above the Great Hall and the work has been inspected and approved. Scaffolding in the Great Hall is now being dismantled and should be cleared by the end of the week. Floor stone layout in the Great Hall will begin next week.
- Masons continue setting base stone, wall stone, and stair stone in the two lower levels (basement and Crypt levels) of the East Front transition zone. Abatement of lead paint on the original sandstone façade is complete on the Crypt level.
- In the Exhibition Hall, masons continue setting floor stone in the north half. Ceiling drywall installation has begun.
- Crews continue setting curb stones along the trees-lined pedestrian walkways leading to the CVC entrances.
- All mechanical systems and ductwork are in place in the Orientation Theater ceilings and inspections have been completed. Installation of millwork is expected to begin in the south theater this week.
- Ceiling drywall installation continues in the Food Services Area. Wall and floor tile work is substantially complete.
- Inside the House and Senate Expansion Space, the majority of framework and drywall installation is complete on all three levels in both spaces. Wall and ceiling “close-in” inspections for all of the mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and fire safety systems are ongoing.
- Masons continue setting stone on all three levels of the House and Senate stairwell atria.
- Workers continue to assemble mechanical elements and finishes to escalators and elevators near the Great Hall.

- Wall stone installation continues primarily in the north stairwell atrium in the Senate Expansion Space, in the Congressional Auditorium entrance atrium and in the East Front of the Capitol.
- Waterproofing of the concrete foundation for the East Capitol center steps was completed and the granite steps have been re-installed.
- All of the sprinkler piping for the CVC has been installed.
- The Senate Triangle northeast of the Senate Steps has been landscaped with grass and dozens of new shrubs (see photo below).



East Capitol Street Utility Tunnel

- East Capitol Street was opened to vehicular and pedestrian traffic last Wednesday, June 14, following 16 months of construction activity (see photos above right).
- Insulators and electricians continue working inside the tunnel. Final connection work between the CVC tunnel and the existing utility tunnel below 2nd Street may begin next week pending completion of abatement work this week in the existing 2nd Street Tunnel.

Above: Painters stripe the traffic pattern on East Capitol Street. Inset: A day later, on June 14, 2006, the street was open to vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

Next Week – 6/26/06 – 6/30/06

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

- Skylight installation will continue above the Great Hall. Crews are expected to have completed removal of the scaffolding in the Hall clearing the way for stone masons to begin layout of floor stone in the space.
- Floor stone installation will continue in the north half of the Exhibition Hall. Ceiling drywall installation is expected to continue along the center zone of the Exhibition Hall.
- Installation of base and wall stone will continue inside the East Front transition zone at the upper level of the CVC and at the Crypt level inside the East Front of the Capitol.
- 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 House and Senate stairwell atria. Wall and ceiling close-in inspections continue throughout both expansion spaces.
- Crews are expected to resume tie-in work for the CVC utility tunnel at its connection to the existing tunnel below Second Street.
- Installation of the original bronze fountains may occur this week.
- Stone masons are expected to resume installation of exterior CVC stone as the masons complete perimeter security stone work in June.



Late last week, a landscape crew planted dozens of new shrubs around the Senate Triangle just north and east of the Senate Steps. The plantings are part of the effort to restore the East Capitol Grounds to their pre-CVC construction condition. Of course, many aspects of the grounds will change in an effort to revitalize the pedestrian-friendly historic landscape, most of which had been covered by asphalt in the 20th century.

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.aoc.gov.