



United States Capitol Visitor Center Weekly Construction Summary



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

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Stone walls and stone steps, decorative light fixtures and bronze hand railings ornament this transition zone between the CVC entrance lobby and the Congressional Auditorium. The majority of work in the CVC now relates to the installation of finishes, doors, and other architectural elements.

This Week – Ongoing Work – 3/26/07 through 3/30/07

- In the Exhibition Hall, workers have installed all of the document cases within both sides of the Wall of Aspirations, including all of the protective glass case doors. A crew is now pressure testing the cases to ensure that the door components are sealed properly. Plaster workers will continue work on the walls and faux marble columns in the virtual House Theater. Ceiling panel installation is expected to resume late in the week in the northeast quadrant of the Hall.
- In the Food Service Area workers have installed the main cabinet components in the servery area and are now awaiting the delivery of the stone countertops. Other cabinetry components for the seating area have been delivered and are now being installed. These components, or “banquettes,” will divide the seating zone into three areas.
- Masons are setting an average of 80 sandstone blocks per day in the East Front of the Capitol and continue setting stone in the atrium walls and the walls flanking the south stair.
- In the East Front transition zone the escalator contractor continues installing the secondary mechanical elements to bring the escalators to an operational status. All the floor stone is complete in the middle and lower landings of the stair.
- Masons have completed setting floor stone in the upper level west lobby in the area previously occupied by the escalators and have turned east and are now working to complete the upper level north corridor adjacent to the Great Hall. This is the last major block of floors space to be set with stone.
- Work continues in the transition zone between the Library of Congress tunnel and the Jefferson Building. Installation of fascia and wall marble is occurring at the main stairs and plaster work is occurring at the cellar level. A contractor is also working to seal some cracks in the tunnel itself to allow for completion of finish plaster and stone work.
- Ceiling drywall installation and plaster work are nearly complete at the Crypt level within the East Front transition zone.

- Millwork is ongoing in the upper level panels in the Congressional Auditorium. Workers have completed installing millwork to the corner walls in corridors leading to the Auditorium.
- Masons have completed most of the exterior stone work on the walls flanking the north and south monumental stairs and along the north and south entrance approaches. Masons have completed setting granite pavers (for areas that are available) along the north and south stepped walkways between the two rows of trees on both sides.
- Delivery of the CVC's exterior 12-foot-high bronze doors is expected to begin later this week and installation expected to begin early next week.
- Steel and concrete placements are complete for the structure and slabs of a spiral staircase in the Senate and House Expansion Spaces. Floor stone work and terrazzo stair installation will follow in April.



Wood doors have been installed at the top of the North and South Orientation Theaters.

Next Week – 4/2/07 – 4/6/07

CVC and East Front Plaza Work

- Floor stone installation will continue in an upper level corridor on the north side of the Great Hall. Floor stone covers 126,000 square feet in the CVC, equivalent to three football fields.
- Stone installation will continue in several areas within the East Front of the Capitol. Masons are expected to reach the halfway point of stone installation, approximately 2,400 of 4,700 pieces installed, late in the week.
- In the Great Hall, mechanical contractors will be expected to complete testing and balancing the air handling systems for this area.
- Workers will continue installing the glass floor panels in the Exhibition Hall. Ceiling panel installation will continue on the north side of the Hall and plaster work will continue in the virtual House and Senate Theaters.
- Crews will complete continue preparing the floor panels in the Congressional Auditorium for the finished wood flooring and carpeting. Millwork installation continues over the ceiling speaker components.
- Installation of kitchen equipment and cabinetry components will continue in the Food Service Area. All flooring and wall finishes are completed.
- Masons will continue setting exterior stone along the south side CVC entrance zone, particularly for the piers between the bronze railings that line the curving path at the Plaza level.
- Installation of bronze doors may begin at the CVC north entrance.
- Installation of wood and bronze door frames will continue in many areas throughout the CVC.
- Masons will continue installing floor stone and setting sandstone columns in the CVC gift shops (see photo above).



Masons install a sandstone column in a CVC Gift Shop.

For additional information about the CVC project, contact the project communications officer, Tom Fontana, at tfontana@oc.gov or visit the project web site at www.oc.gov. Be sure to click on the "Capitol Visitor Center" link on the homepage.