



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

*Finance Department*

**City Council Regular Meeting Date: December 2, 2025**

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Steve C. Chaipel, Deputy City Manager/CFO  
**Date:** December 8, 2025

**SUBJECT:** Sanibel Causeway Traffic Counts – November 2025

As reported to the City by the Lee County Department of Transportation, November 2025 Sanibel Causeway inbound vehicle counts increased by 2.67% as compared to November 2024.

Traffic crossing the causeway continues to improve over the prior year. The November traffic counts were the highest since 2022.

|                   | 2021             | 2022             | 2023             | 2024             | 2025             | 2025 vs 2024   |                |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| January           | 282,778          | 311,596          | 190,919          | 252,892          | 261,462          | 8,570          | 3.39%          |
| February          | 293,554          | 317,584          | 207,699          | 260,436          | 257,419          | (3,017)        | (1.16%)        |
| March             | 352,029          | 363,863          | 246,296          | 285,946          | 296,471          | 10,525         | 3.68%          |
| April             | 330,664          | 332,323          | 226,212          | 259,576          | 269,069          | 9,493          | 3.66%          |
| May               | 323,157          | 303,569          | 226,250          | 243,399          | 257,569          | 14,170         | 5.82%          |
| June              | 300,788          | 279,042          | 212,373          | 214,950          | 236,290          | 21,340         | 9.93%          |
| July              | 307,599          | 299,834          | 212,189          | 227,658          | 245,139          | 17,481         | 7.68%          |
| August            | 252,803          | 257,717          | 210,811          | 207,418          | 215,005          | 7,587          | 3.66%          |
| September         | 233,764          | 199,312          | 200,549          | 184,669          | 193,419          | 8,750          | 4.74%          |
| October           | 269,353          | -                | 223,326          | 187,618          | 228,916          | 41,298         | 22.01%         |
| November          | 281,379          | -                | 213,918          | 224,479          | 230,466          | 5,987          | 2.67%          |
| December          | 307,355          | 130,165          | 208,065          | 235,203          |                  |                |                |
| <b>YTD Total</b>  | <b>3,227,868</b> | <b>2,664,840</b> | <b>2,370,542</b> | <b>2,549,041</b> | <b>2,691,225</b> | <b>142,184</b> | <b>5.58%</b>   |
| <b>Total Year</b> | <b>3,535,223</b> | <b>2,795,005</b> | <b>2,578,607</b> | <b>2,784,244</b> | <b>2,691,225</b> | <b>142,184</b> | <b>(3.34%)</b> |

\* Table compares prior year's monthly activity with current year's monthly activity. YTD Total row is through the current month for all years shown

The tables on the following page compare the current year with the last five fiscal years for both fiscal year to date and total year to date counts.

December 8, 2025

|                 | FY 2021          | FY 2022          | FY 2023          | FY 2024          | FY 2025          | FY 2026        | Change from<br>Prior Month |
|-----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| October         | 246,035          | 269,353          | -                | 223,326          | 187,618          | 228,916        | 18.35%                     |
| November        | 242,527          | 281,379          | -                | 213,918          | 224,479          | 230,466        | (92.00%)                   |
| December        | 270,520          | 307,355          | 130,165          | 208,065          | 235,203          |                |                            |
| January         | 282,778          | 311,596          | 190,919          | 252,892          | 261,462          |                |                            |
| February        | 293,554          | 317,584          | 207,699          | 260,436          | 257,419          |                |                            |
| March           | 352,029          | 363,863          | 246,296          | 285,946          | 296,471          |                |                            |
| April           | 330,664          | 332,323          | 226,212          | 259,576          | 269,069          |                |                            |
| May             | 323,157          | 303,569          | 226,250          | 243,399          | 257,569          |                |                            |
| June            | 300,788          | 279,042          | 212,373          | 214,950          | 236,290          |                |                            |
| July            | 307,599          | 299,834          | 212,189          | 227,658          | 245,139          |                |                            |
| August          | 252,803          | 257,717          | 210,811          | 207,418          | 215,005          |                |                            |
| September       | 233,764          | 199,312          | 200,549          | 184,669          | 193,419          |                |                            |
| <b>Total FY</b> | <b>3,436,218</b> | <b>3,522,927</b> | <b>2,063,463</b> | <b>2,782,253</b> | <b>2,879,143</b> | <b>459,382</b> |                            |

\* Table compares prior month's activity with current month's activity for current fiscal year

|             | FY 2020        | FY 2021        | FY 2022        | FY 2023  | FY 2024        | FY 2025        | FY 2026        |
|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| October     | 253,144        | 246,035        | 269,353        | -        | 223,326        | 187,618        | 228,916        |
| November    | 266,766        | 242,527        | 281,379        | -        | 213,918        | 224,479        | 230,466        |
| <b>FYTD</b> | <b>519,910</b> | <b>488,562</b> | <b>550,732</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>437,244</b> | <b>412,097</b> | <b>459,382</b> |

\*Table compares current fiscal year-to-date (YTD) with prior years fiscal YTD

#### Notes

- Phase 1 of the causeway island rehabilitation project was completed in April 2025. The causeway islands reopened to beach visitors on May 1, 2025.
- Hurricane Milton affected the island on October 9-10, 2024. The causeway was closed to traffic for most of the day on October 10, 2024.
- Hurricane Helene passed the island in the Gulf of Mexico on September 26, 2024.
- On March 9, 2020 Governor DeSantis declared a state of emergency for the State of Florida due to COVID-19. On March 17, 2020 Lee County declared a local state of emergency related to the same. The City Council declared a local state of emergency on March 18, 2020. As a result of these actions, visitation and traffic to the island was significantly negatively impacted starting in March 2020. The state of emergency ended in June 26, 2021.
- On September 28, 2022 Hurricane Ian made landfall in Sanibel causing catastrophic damage. The causeway was significantly damaged and vehicular traffic did not resume travel until late October 2022. Traffic counts resumed in December 2022; however, tolls did not resume until January 1, 2023.

Lee County Toll System  
**PERIODIC DAILY AVI TRAFFIC REPORT**  
**Sanibel Island**

Start Date: 11/01/2025

End Date: 11/30/2025

| Revenue Date | Prepaid Variable |         |          | Prepaid |         |          | AVI Exempt | Total  |
|--------------|------------------|---------|----------|---------|---------|----------|------------|--------|
|              | AVI              | AVI Red | AVI Full | AVI     | AVI Red | AVI Full |            |        |
| 11/01/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2314    | 1112    | 1091     | 29         | 4546   |
| 11/02/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 1929    | 999     | 820      | 32         | 3780   |
| 11/03/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2271    | 1489    | 1660     | 57         | 5477   |
| 11/04/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2459    | 1591    | 1784     | 61         | 5895   |
| 11/05/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2580    | 1598    | 1845     | 70         | 6093   |
| 11/06/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2465    | 1632    | 1834     | 57         | 5988   |
| 11/07/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2726    | 1615    | 1765     | 60         | 6166   |
| 11/08/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2460    | 1242    | 1189     | 33         | 4924   |
| 11/09/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2089    | 1093    | 884      | 18         | 4084   |
| 11/10/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2301    | 1619    | 1709     | 55         | 5684   |
| 11/11/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2293    | 1599    | 1618     | 46         | 5556   |
| 11/12/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2293    | 1654    | 1879     | 75         | 5901   |
| 11/13/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2410    | 1670    | 1894     | 70         | 6044   |
| 11/14/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2554    | 1645    | 1858     | 51         | 6108   |
| 11/15/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2409    | 1292    | 1234     | 28         | 4963   |
| 11/16/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 1896    | 1123    | 937      | 30         | 3986   |
| 11/17/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2187    | 1548    | 1782     | 57         | 5574   |
| 11/18/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2348    | 1694    | 1875     | 64         | 5981   |
| 11/19/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2429    | 1665    | 1920     | 58         | 6072   |
| 11/20/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2359    | 1753    | 1943     | 64         | 6119   |
| 11/21/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2442    | 1665    | 1909     | 51         | 6067   |
| 11/22/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2397    | 1308    | 1262     | 25         | 4992   |
| 11/23/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2096    | 1093    | 951      | 31         | 4171   |
| 11/24/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2486    | 1618    | 1703     | 40         | 5847   |
| 11/25/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2611    | 1686    | 1784     | 44         | 6125   |
| 11/26/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2548    | 1489    | 1694     | 43         | 5774   |
| 11/27/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 1427    | 697     | 728      | 20         | 2872   |
| 11/28/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2168    | 1241    | 1299     | 29         | 4737   |
| 11/29/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 2157    | 1134    | 1067     | 34         | 4392   |
| 11/30/2025   | 0                | 0       | 0        | 1786    | 1061    | 861      | 22         | 3730   |
| Total:       | 0                | 0       | 0        | 68890   | 42625   | 44779    | 1354       | 157648 |

## PERIODIC DAILY LANE TRAFFIC REPORT

## Sanibel Island

Start Date: 11/01/2025

End Date: 11/30/2025

| Date       | Lane 1 | Lane 2  | Lane 3 | Total   |
|------------|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| 11/01/2025 | 2,951  | 3,328   | 552    | 6,831   |
| 11/02/2025 | 2,529  | 2,702   | 462    | 5,693   |
| 11/03/2025 | 3,271  | 3,906   | 666    | 7,843   |
| 11/04/2025 | 3,456  | 4,160   | 776    | 8,392   |
| 11/05/2025 | 3,564  | 4,377   | 824    | 8,765   |
| 11/06/2025 | 3,532  | 4,316   | 795    | 8,643   |
| 11/07/2025 | 3,638  | 4,436   | 898    | 8,972   |
| 11/08/2025 | 3,287  | 3,648   | 721    | 7,656   |
| 11/09/2025 | 2,724  | 3,000   | 519    | 6,243   |
| 11/10/2025 | 3,275  | 4,075   | 679    | 8,029   |
| 11/11/2025 | 3,244  | 3,926   | 740    | 7,910   |
| 11/12/2025 | 3,297  | 4,303   | 771    | 8,371   |
| 11/13/2025 | 3,431  | 4,370   | 900    | 8,701   |
| 11/14/2025 | 3,501  | 4,356   | 880    | 8,737   |
| 11/15/2025 | 3,136  | 3,666   | 679    | 7,481   |
| 11/16/2025 | 2,631  | 2,790   | 469    | 5,890   |
| 11/17/2025 | 3,175  | 3,911   | 732    | 7,818   |
| 11/18/2025 | 3,439  | 4,093   | 857    | 8,389   |
| 11/19/2025 | 3,287  | 4,265   | 847    | 8,399   |
| 11/20/2025 | 3,443  | 4,229   | 892    | 8,564   |
| 11/21/2025 | 3,493  | 4,357   | 913    | 8,763   |
| 11/22/2025 | 3,203  | 3,758   | 693    | 7,654   |
| 11/23/2025 | 2,758  | 3,102   | 544    | 6,404   |
| 11/24/2025 | 3,488  | 4,292   | 818    | 8,598   |
| 11/25/2025 | 3,655  | 4,468   | 903    | 9,026   |
| 11/26/2025 | 3,424  | 4,332   | 953    | 8,709   |
| 11/27/2025 | 2,029  | 2,122   | 295    | 4,446   |
| 11/28/2025 | 3,013  | 3,425   | 601    | 7,039   |
| 11/29/2025 | 3,036  | 3,245   | 572    | 6,853   |
| 11/30/2025 | 2,486  | 2,713   | 448    | 5,647   |
| Total:     | 95,396 | 113,671 | 21,399 | 230,466 |