



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

*City Manager*

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**City Council Regular Meeting Date: March 31, 2026**

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Dana A. Souza, City Manager  
**Date:** March 20, 2026

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**SUBJECT:** Florida Legislative Session 2026

**BACKGROUND:**

The (regular) 2026 Legislative Session ended on Friday, March 13. Some of the Bills of interest to Sanibel passed and others failed. The information below and attached provides a summary of the session:

1. Budget – Per the attached 2026 Florida Legislative Session Highlights prepared by PooleMcKinley, the House and the Senate did not reach a budget agreement before session ended last week. The Senate President and House Speaker expect a special session on the budget to be convened in April to finalize the state's General Appropriations Act (budget) so it may be presented to the Governor prior to the July 1 start to FY 26-27. The respective House and Senate budgets propose funding for Sanibel's projects as shown below (against the requested amounts).

**Senate Budget:**

Sanibel Tradewinds Drainage Project - \$650,000 (Requested \$4.2 million)  
Sanibel Shared Use Path Reconstruction - \$350,000 (Requested \$2.5 million)

**House Budget:**

Sanibel Weir Flap Gate Modification and Installation - \$300,000 (Requested \$600,000)  
Sanibel Shared Use Path Reconstruction - \$1,250,000 (Requested \$2.5 million)

Since the Beach Rd. Weir improvements will be funded through an FDEP Stormwater Grant, as approved by the City Council on March 3, 2026, the City Council may reduce the requested appropriation funding for the Sanibel Weir Flap Gate Modification and Installation from \$600,000 to \$450,000. If funded, the state appropriation will be used to construct a flap gate at the Tarpon Bay Weir.

2. Property Tax Reform (Relief) – Per the attached 2026 Florida Legislative Session Highlights prepared by PooleMcKinley, one of seven proposals filed by the House this session, HJR 203, made it through the committee process and off the House floor. The

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joint resolution proposes a constitutional amendment to eliminate non-school property taxes on homestead property on January 1, 2027. The measure would have required approval by both chambers with a 60% vote before being placed on the statewide ballot, but it was never heard in the Senate. The Senate did not put forward its own proposal, and Governor DeSantis did not advance a specific plan. Legislative leaders have indicated the issue may be revisited in a future Special Session as discussions around broader property tax reform continue.

3. FLC Week 9 Update – The Week 9 (March 13, 20206) End of Regular Session email from the FLC is attached. Areas of particular interest to Sanibel have been highlighted.
4. Local Business Taxes – [HB 103](#) (Botana) **failed**. Had this Bill been approved by the House/Senate/Governor, Sanibel likely would have lost between \$275,000 - \$350,000 annually, based on pre-Ian revenues.
5. Lee County Tourist Development Council – [HB 4047](#) (Giallombardo) was unanimously **approved** by the House and Senate and will be presented to the Governor for consideration. This Bill amends the makeup of the Lee County TDC by increasing the number of members from 9 to 11 and creating a voting seat for an elected official from the most populous city (Cape Coral). An elected official from the city that generates the greatest amount of tourist tax in the most recent year will also have a voting seat. If that City is the also the most populous city, then the city generating the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest tourist tax income will have the voting seat. The number of voting seats held by persons who are involved in the tourist industry have increased from 6 seats to 7 seats.
6. Micromobility Device – [SB 382](#) was unanimously **approved** by the House and Senate and will be presented to the Governor for consideration. The bill provides that a person operating an electric bicycle on shared pathways must yield to pedestrians and give an audible signal before overtaking and passing a pedestrian. It also provides that a person operating an electric bicycle on areas designated for pedestrians may not operate the electric bicycle at a speed greater than 10 miles per hour if a pedestrian is within 50 feet of the electric bicycle. Failure to comply with these provisions is a noncriminal traffic infraction, punished as a nonmoving violation.

The bill also creates the Micromobility Device Safety Task Force, adjunct to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) and provides the task force must submit a report by October 1, 2026, to the Legislature and Governor that recommends improvements to state law and the regulatory framework governing micromobility devices. Additionally, the bill creates a micromobility crash data collection and reporting process for incidents through September 20, 2026, that requires law enforcement agencies to collect and submit specified information related to crashes involving micromobility devices to DHSMV, from which DHSMV is required to create a summary report due to the Legislature and the Governor by October 31, 2026.

There is nothing in this Bill that would prohibit local governments from restricting or prohibiting the operation of an electric bicycle on a bicycle path, multiuse path, or trail network, per [FS 316.20655](#).

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7. Auxiliary Containers (single use plastic) – SB 240 **failed**. This Bill, if successful, would have required DEP to develop a uniform ordinance for the use and disposal of single-use containers.
8. Land Use Regulations for Local Governments Affected by Natural Disasters – [SB 840](#) **failed**.
9. Preemption to the State – [SB 1444](#) (Jonathan Martin) – **failed**.
10. Blue Ribbon Projects – [SB 354](#) – After debate on this Bill was postponed on its 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading in the Senate, the bill **failed** to gain Senate approval.

**FUNDING SOURCE: N/A**

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Consider a motion to reduce the requested appropriation funding for the Sanibel Weir Flap Gate Modification and Installation from \$600,000 to \$450,000.