



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Finance Department

City Council Regular Meeting Date: October 3, 2023

To: City Council
From: Steven C. Chaipel, Deputy City Manager/CFO
Date: September 26, 2023

SUBJECT: Sanibel Causeway Traffic Counts

As reported to the City by Lee County, the August 2023 Sanibel Causeway inbound vehicle counts decreased by 29.72% as compared to August 2022. The highest recorded traffic for August was experienced in 2022 when 210,811 vehicles crossed during the month.

The Causeway is open to vehicular traffic after needing significant temporary restoration following the effects of Hurricane Ian on Sanibel. However, the causeway remains an active construction site during the rebuilding phase of the bridges and the spoil islands. Vehicular traffic is expected to be affected for the foreseeable future.

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2023 vs 2022	
January	318,315	282,778	311,596	190,919	(120,677)	(38.73%)
February	321,085	293,554	317,584	207,699	(109,885)	(34.60%)
March	265,546	352,029	363,863	246,296	(117,567)	(32.31%)
April	123,130	330,664	332,323	226,212	(106,111)	(31.93%)
May	221,665	323,157	303,569	226,250	(77,319)	(25.47%)
June	252,000	300,788	279,042	212,373	(66,669)	(23.89%)
July	255,010	307,599	299,834	212,189	(87,645)	(29.23%)
August	233,491	252,803	257,717	210,811	(46,906)	(18.20%)
September	218,338	233,764	199,312			
October	246,035	269,353	N/A			
November	242,527	281,379	N/A			
December	270,520	307,355	130,165			
YTD Total	1,990,242	2,443,372	2,465,528	1,732,749	(732,779)	(29.72%)
Total Year	2,967,662	3,535,223	2,795,005	1,732,749		

The charts on the next page compare the current year with the last five fiscal years for both fiscal year to date and total year to date counts. Total fiscal year and fiscal year to date causeway counts:

Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
October	257,307	239,426	253,144	246,035	269,353	N/A
November	274,306	261,399	266,766	242,527	281,379	N/A
December	286,545	275,964	284,979	270,520	307,355	130,165
January	301,565	305,372	318,315	282,778	311,596	190,919
February	313,409	310,367	321,085	293,554	317,584	207,699
March	355,410	355,759	265,546	352,029	363,863	246,296
April	311,012	314,979	123,130	330,664	332,323	226,212
May	262,653	283,526	221,665	323,157	303,569	226,250
June	262,365	256,840	252,000	300,788	279,042	212,373
July	266,178	265,024	255,010	307,599	299,834	212,189
August	206,903	234,099	233,491	252,803	257,717	210,811
September	184,237	207,956	218,338	233,764	199,312	
Total FY	3,281,890	3,310,711	3,013,469	3,436,218	3,522,927	1,862,914

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
October	257,307	253,144	253,144	246,035	269,353	N/A
November	274,306	266,766	266,766	242,527	281,379	N/A
December	286,545	275,964	284,979	270,520	307,355	130,165
January	301,565	305,372	318,315	282,778	311,596	190,919
February	313,409	310,367	321,085	293,554	317,584	207,699
March	355,410	355,759	265,546	352,029	363,863	246,296
April	311,012	314,979	123,130	330,664	332,323	226,212
May	262,653	283,526	221,665	323,157	303,569	226,250
June	262,365	256,840	252,000	300,788	279,042	212,373
July	266,178	265,024	255,010	307,599	299,834	212,189
August	206,903	234,099	233,491	252,803	257,717	210,811
FYTD	3,097,653	3,121,840	2,795,131	3,202,454	3,323,615	1,862,914

Notes

- Hurricane Irma landed on Sanibel September 10, 2017. Due to Hurricane Irma, tolls suspended September 7, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. until September 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Traffic counts were not taken while tolls were suspended
- On July 9, 2018 Governor Scott declared a state of emergency for Lee County and several other counties due to the environmental threat posed by increasing toxic algae blooms. On July 27, 2018 Lee County declared a state of emergency in response to the toxic bloom. On July 7, 2018, the City of Sanibel declared a local state of emergency in response to the toxic bloom
- 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.

Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

TOTAL VEHICLES THROUGH SANIBEL CAUSEWAY BY MONTH

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
1975	71,497	77,820	92,725	70,355	60,632	59,139	62,322	62,201	45,480	53,450	59,084	78,668	795,348
1976	84,299	96,545	111,476	89,794	71,553	70,031	75,252	71,522	58,676	62,895	71,382	89,853	953,278
1977	94,447	108,599	129,246	103,187	82,152	77,932	83,723	79,071	65,662	75,735	85,564	97,797	1,083,115
1978	104,193	115,285	145,573	108,652	95,454	90,836	99,998	98,175	80,288	89,577	99,901	107,774	1,235,706
1979	120,611	133,867	161,086	132,023	106,364	97,850	99,924	101,007	78,769	98,014	108,945	118,275	1,356,735
1980	132,655	148,630	171,790	144,903	123,261	117,852	124,672	120,338	98,302	115,265	119,052	136,561	1,553,281
1981	141,531	158,419	187,929	159,416	139,422	126,940	134,746	127,094	111,486	123,591	131,986	142,354	1,684,914
1982	151,598	172,210	205,406	171,080	142,796	123,004	133,581	125,851	108,680	123,777	138,525	150,133	1,746,641
1983	165,687	175,371	206,486	175,982	155,029	137,686	140,377	138,763	123,577	145,603	155,938	167,072	1,887,571
1984	177,772	202,219	238,398	198,917	172,520	155,093	157,527	161,249	136,934	161,877	172,336	185,437	2,120,279
1985	195,656	214,378	260,947	218,871	189,217	166,656	170,963	171,472	144,877	171,828	184,240	201,856	2,290,961
1986	222,671	237,844	277,318	233,768	205,791	184,725	192,522	190,157	165,626	189,818	199,923	218,970	2,519,133
1987	237,853	253,132	292,300	256,283	228,039	202,271	212,669	198,889	179,830	203,003	218,186	227,822	2,710,277
1988	240,333	263,684	298,358	261,259	227,835	211,278	219,390	202,843	185,991	211,476	225,141	232,510	2,780,098
1989	262,812	275,217	319,506	265,334	240,919	217,282	223,224	217,561	194,282	224,655	234,250	226,305	2,901,347
1990	263,259	283,752	330,219	286,758	247,651	226,605	227,423	228,836	196,113	229,494	248,957	251,114	3,020,181
1991	284,739	287,309	327,890	285,819	249,680	220,757	225,596	223,316	191,537	225,082	238,544	253,706	3,013,975
1992	280,819	297,992	325,286	282,992	254,534	220,681	240,321	221,543	208,241	241,442	250,092	264,262	3,088,205
1993	290,670	296,725	337,653	302,459	261,192	233,296	246,572	233,370	212,183	239,421	259,123	270,798	3,183,462
1994	293,531	300,002	357,362	308,596	264,426	228,980	240,589	234,362	212,574	246,573	265,715	272,408	3,225,118
1995	299,559	308,171	348,594	307,534	268,757	230,841	243,361	199,379	209,803	241,521	270,379	271,923	3,199,822
1996	304,407	326,104	347,728	311,173	271,955	238,613	250,166	241,345	212,542	246,955	264,623	268,229	3,283,840
1997	306,316	310,880	359,236	305,966	277,043	243,687	253,515	244,433	208,686	253,406	264,595	269,812	3,297,575
1998	307,702	312,839	354,579	323,198	278,057	244,061	257,095	244,650	194,238	261,953	276,278	281,724	3,336,374
1999	309,901	321,124	364,627	321,078	277,797	245,719	266,201	245,368	220,735	248,747	282,998	280,212	3,384,507
2000	314,885	334,888	362,049	318,087	284,199	256,539	263,139	244,603	224,860	261,497	284,445	284,578	3,433,769
2001	322,154	333,949	373,881	330,856	289,756	262,558	265,127	257,564	209,826	253,214	280,433	281,029	3,460,347
2002	318,784	324,030	372,848	322,133	283,490	249,509	266,951	254,452	218,476	262,318	279,067	278,258	3,430,316
2003	292,127	299,200	334,043	298,465	269,750	240,791	261,964	243,152	208,777	261,425	274,091	273,962	3,257,747
2004	304,643	318,535	356,220	316,083	275,031	253,718	270,112	144,277	169,391	235,888	231,622	236,781	3,112,301
2005	267,889	273,111	319,514	273,327	243,571	220,531	232,041	212,698	183,277	183,538	239,412	241,946	2,890,855
2006	268,038	266,706	322,245	276,324	240,382	219,615	218,316	196,253	180,467	213,190	236,941	237,016	2,875,493
2007	271,923	267,015	317,457	272,220	240,125	224,222	227,500	215,347	184,663	217,740	238,781	241,586	2,918,579
2008	273,912	291,589	325,814	280,186	245,084	216,491	226,915	201,964	174,041	214,334	229,541	244,711	2,924,582
2009	273,234	280,538	323,380	285,150	235,716	218,375	231,610	205,751	180,175	217,507	232,254	243,172	2,926,862
2010	261,120	270,500	325,113	283,061	241,916	217,699	224,456	200,719	180,493	213,581	232,349	235,598	2,886,605
2011	259,151	280,964	334,523	289,364	240,349	222,098	234,623	208,694	183,962	213,083	240,131	246,690	2,953,632
2012	271,691	292,491	340,172	282,961	245,846	221,719	240,786	209,467	189,037	224,850	242,704	247,159	3,008,883
2013	285,060	287,624	334,060	288,245	257,262	233,178	248,063	226,855	191,824	233,944	251,694	263,481	3,101,290
2014	290,447	299,537	344,119	303,528	266,028	240,195	256,779	234,804	197,119	245,090	254,257	277,597	3,209,500
2015	307,302	300,449	355,695	313,112	275,167	254,435	264,087	238,868	212,624	255,097	268,749	288,846	3,334,431
2016	299,519	309,434	356,633	311,725	278,614	255,834	269,576	238,931	220,810	257,644	274,382	286,146	3,359,248
2017	305,957	307,537	353,755	317,735	283,150	252,600	279,305	245,991	129,701	257,307	274,306	286,545	3,293,889
2018	301,565	313,409	355,410	311,012	262,653	262,365	266,178	206,903	184,237	239,426	261,399	275,964	3,240,521
2019	305,372	310,367	355,759	314,979	283,526	256,840	265,024	234,099	207,956	253,144	266,766	284,979	3,338,811
2020	318,315	321,085	265,546	123,130	221,665	252,000	255,010	233,491	218,338	246,035	242,527	270,520	2,967,662
2021	282,778	293,554	352,029	330,664	323,157	300,788	307,599	252,803	233,764	269,353	281,379	307,355	3,535,223
2022	311,596	317,584	363,863	332,323	303,569	278,042	299,834	257,717	199,312	n/a (lan)	n/a (lan)	130,165	2,794,005
2023	190,919	207,699	246,296	226,212	226,250	212,373	212,189	210,811					1,732,749

07/18, 08/18, 09/18 Unprecedented red tide fish kill was experienced

Easter 2016 was on March 27, 2016 and Easter 2017 was on April 16, 2017. Easter 2018 was on April 1, 2018

Hurricane Irma landed on Sanibel September 10, 2017. Due to Hurricane Irma, tolls suspended September 7, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. until September 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Traffic counts were not taken while tolls were suspended.

February 2016 included 29 days

January 2016 total rainfall recorded at Tarpon Bay weir 12.5 inches. January 2017 total rainfall recorded at Tarpon Bay weir 0.23 inch.

08/27/12 Toll Facility closed due to Tropical Storm Isaac

08/18/08-08/19/08 Toll Facility closed due to Tropical Storm Fay

10/23/05-10/25/05 Toll Facility closed due to Hurricane Wilma

09/01-09/05/04 - Causeway closed to non-residents & non-business owners

08/19-08/31/04 - Causeway closed to non-residents & non-business owners

08/12/04-08/18/04 - Toll Facility closed due to Hurricane Charley

01/20/03 - Causeway shut down for emergency repairs to Span "B"

09/24/98-09/27/98 - Toll Facility closed due to Hurricane Georges

11/96-12/96 - Estimated; new toll equipment installed

08/95 - Computer "crashed" - estimated total

Lee County Toll System
PERIODIC DAILY AVI TRAFFIC REPORT
Sanibel Island

Start Date: 08/01/2023

End Date: 08/31/2023

Revenue Date	Prepaid Variable			Prepaid			AVI Exempt	Total
	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full		
08/01/2023	0	0	0	2350	1119	1312	30	4811
08/02/2023	0	0	0	2312	1149	1355	36	4852
08/03/2023	0	0	0	2380	1140	1305	40	4865
08/04/2023	0	0	0	2434	1127	1284	34	4879
08/05/2023	0	0	0	1953	807	743	19	3522
08/06/2023	0	0	0	2284	685	512	19	3500
08/07/2023	0	0	0	2285	1056	1289	32	4662
08/08/2023	0	0	0	2432	1155	1372	51	5010
08/09/2023	0	0	0	2294	1179	1353	54	4880
08/10/2023	0	0	0	2327	1169	1369	50	4915
08/11/2023	0	0	0	2408	1130	1337	37	4912
08/12/2023	0	0	0	1826	826	729	15	3396
08/13/2023	0	0	0	2055	706	546	15	3322
08/14/2023	0	0	0	2167	1155	1344	34	4700
08/15/2023	0	0	0	2351	1183	1420	43	4997
08/16/2023	0	0	0	2349	1182	1409	38	4978
08/17/2023	0	0	0	2371	1201	1395	39	5006
08/18/2023	0	0	0	2287	1093	1343	39	4762
08/19/2023	0	0	0	1857	814	757	17	3445
08/20/2023	0	0	0	1639	690	504	16	2849
08/21/2023	0	0	0	2116	1095	1363	39	4613
08/22/2023	0	0	0	2373	1210	1445	41	5069
08/23/2023	0	0	0	2436	1179	1487	51	5153
08/24/2023	0	0	0	2307	1180	1421	43	4951
08/25/2023	0	0	0	2334	1186	1401	31	4952
08/26/2023	0	0	0	1921	815	729	11	3476
08/27/2023	0	0	0	1737	719	559	14	3029
08/28/2023	0	0	0	2179	1201	1433	42	4855
08/29/2023	0	0	0	1288	657	818	49	2812
08/30/2023	0	0	0	949	753	831	30	2563
08/31/2023	0	0	0	2104	1240	1426	60	4830
Total:	0	0	0	66105	31801	35591	1069	134566

PERIODIC DAILY LANE TRAFFIC REPORT

Sanibel Island

Start Date: 08/01/2023

End Date: 08/31/2023

Date	Lane 1	Lane 2	Total
08/01/2023	3	7,607	7,610
08/02/2023	0	7,603	7,603
08/03/2023	0	7,791	7,791
08/04/2023	9	7,728	7,737
08/05/2023	0	5,946	5,946
08/06/2023	6	6,008	6,014
08/07/2023	2	7,353	7,355
08/08/2023	1	7,972	7,973
08/09/2023	1	7,610	7,611
08/10/2023	8	7,680	7,688
08/11/2023	0	7,642	7,642
08/12/2023	0	5,740	5,740
08/13/2023	1	5,696	5,697
08/14/2023	0	7,250	7,250
08/15/2023	1	7,679	7,680
08/16/2023	0	7,632	7,632
08/17/2023	1	7,438	7,439
08/18/2023	2	7,348	7,350
08/19/2023	1	5,586	5,587
08/20/2023	1	4,547	4,548
08/21/2023	0	7,148	7,148
08/22/2023	2	7,755	7,757
08/23/2023	0	7,906	7,906
08/24/2023	4	7,622	7,626
08/25/2023	4	7,695	7,699
08/26/2023	0	5,646	5,646
08/27/2023	2	4,812	4,814
08/28/2023	5	7,371	7,376
08/29/2023	1	4,281	4,282
08/30/2023	4	3,553	3,557
08/31/2023	0	7,107	7,107
Total:	59	210,752	210,811