



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Finance Department

City Council Regular Meeting Date: November 4, 2025

To: City Council
From: Steve C. Chaipel, Deputy City Manager/CFO
Date: October 15, 2025

SUBJECT: Sanibel Causeway Traffic Counts – September 2025 and Total Fiscal Year

As reported to the City by the Lee County Department of Transportation, the September 2025 Sanibel Causeway inbound vehicle counts increased by 4.74% as compared to September 2024.

Traffic crossing the causeway continues to improve over the prior year. Notably, fiscal year 2025 recorded the highest amount of traffic since prior to Hurricane Ian.

	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			
November	281,379	-	213,918	224,479			
December	307,355	130,165	208,065	235,203			
YTD Total	2,677,136	2,664,840	1,933,298	2,136,944	2,231,843	94,899	3.66%
Total Year	3,535,223	2,795,005	2,578,607	2,784,244	2,231,843	94,899	(19.84%)

* 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.

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	Change from Prior Month
October	253,144	246,035	269,353	-	223,326	187,618	1.60%
November	266,766	242,527	281,379	-	213,918	224,479	19.65%
December	284,979	270,520	307,355	130,165	208,065	235,203	4.78%
January	318,315	282,778	311,596	190,919	252,892	261,462	11.16%
February	321,085	293,554	317,584	207,699	260,436	257,419	(1.55%)
March	265,546	352,029	363,863	246,296	285,946	296,471	15.17%
April	123,130	330,664	332,323	226,212	259,576	269,069	(9.24%)
May	221,665	323,157	303,569	226,250	243,399	257,569	(4.27%)
June	252,000	300,788	279,042	212,373	214,950	236,290	(8.26%)
July	255,010	307,599	299,834	212,189	227,658	245,139	3.74%
August	233,491	252,803	257,717	210,811	207,418	215,005	(12.29%)
September	218,338	233,764	199,312	200,549	184,669	193,419	(10.04%)
Total FY	3,013,469	3,436,218	3,522,927	2,063,463	2,782,253	2,879,143	

* 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
October	253,144	246,035	269,353	-	223,326	187,618
November	266,766	242,527	281,379	-	213,918	224,479
December	284,979	270,520	307,355	130,165	208,065	235,203
January	318,315	282,778	311,596	190,919	252,892	261,462
February	321,085	293,554	317,584	207,699	260,436	257,419
March	265,546	352,029	363,863	246,296	285,946	296,471
April	123,130	330,664	332,323	226,212	259,576	269,069
May	221,665	323,157	303,569	226,250	243,399	257,569
June	252,000	300,788	279,042	212,373	214,950	236,290
July	318,315	282,778	311,596	190,919	227,658	245,139
August	233,491	252,803	257,717	210,811	207,418	215,005
September	218,338	233,764	199,312	200,549	226,250	193,419
FYTD	3,076,774	3,411,397	3,534,689	2,042,193	2,823,834	2,879,143

*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.

PERIODIC DAILY LANE TRAFFIC REPORT

Sanibel Island

Start Date: 09/01/2025

End Date: 09/30/2025

Date	Lane 1	Lane 2	Lane 3	Total
09/01/2025	2,700	2,869	274	5,843
09/02/2025	2,837	3,574	271	6,682
09/03/2025	2,585	3,676	352	6,613
09/04/2025	2,762	3,519	311	6,592
09/05/2025	2,867	3,677	370	6,914
09/06/2025	2,458	2,783	231	5,472
09/07/2025	1,790	1,770	125	3,685
09/08/2025	2,810	3,279	287	6,376
09/09/2025	2,723	3,519	345	6,587
09/10/2025	2,922	3,722	377	7,021
09/11/2025	2,797	3,605	428	6,830
09/12/2025	3,059	3,565	392	7,016
09/13/2025	2,720	3,080	329	6,129
09/14/2025	2,229	2,315	263	4,807
09/15/2025	2,850	3,428	401	6,679
09/16/2025	2,672	3,625	635	6,932
09/17/2025	2,816	3,395	365	6,576
09/18/2025	2,907	3,524	421	6,852
09/19/2025	3,171	3,853	479	7,503
09/20/2025	2,991	3,391	412	6,794
09/21/2025	2,336	2,329	283	4,948
09/22/2025	2,863	3,357	325	6,545
09/23/2025	2,915	3,422	403	6,740
09/24/2025	2,967	3,634	446	7,047
09/25/2025	3,009	3,661	501	7,171
09/26/2025	3,274	3,958	540	7,772
09/27/2025	2,926	3,172	437	6,535
09/28/2025	2,293	2,381	270	4,944
09/29/2025	3,424	2,602	745	6,771
09/30/2025	2,967	3,564	512	7,043
Total:	83,640	98,249	11,530	193,419

Lee County Toll System
PERIODIC DAILY AVI TRAFFIC REPORT
Sanibel Island

Start Date: 09/01/2025

End Date: 09/30/2025

Revenue Date	Prepaid Variable			Prepaid			AVI Exempt	Total
	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full		
09/01/2025	0	0	0	2002	705	865	69	3641
09/02/2025	0	0	0	1843	1213	1627	52	4735
09/03/2025	0	0	0	1775	1172	1687	66	4700
09/04/2025	0	0	0	1729	1163	1702	66	4660
09/05/2025	0	0	0	1906	1179	1662	52	4799
09/06/2025	0	0	0	1703	879	993	31	3606
09/07/2025	0	0	0	1026	654	751	20	2451
09/08/2025	0	0	0	1704	1169	1600	59	4532
09/09/2025	0	0	0	1756	1146	1664	61	4627
09/10/2025	0	0	0	1916	1209	1709	71	4905
09/11/2025	0	0	0	1849	1200	1672	57	4778
09/12/2025	0	0	0	1971	1160	1644	51	4826
09/13/2025	0	0	0	2037	902	972	44	3955
09/14/2025	0	0	0	1632	737	763	25	3157
09/15/2025	0	0	0	1823	1175	1597	65	4660
09/16/2025	0	0	0	1926	1217	1614	72	4829
09/17/2025	0	0	0	1799	1127	1651	58	4635
09/18/2025	0	0	0	1853	1213	1670	64	4800
09/19/2025	0	0	0	2258	1155	1638	54	5105
09/20/2025	0	0	0	2438	819	1020	37	4314
09/21/2025	0	0	0	1607	731	784	29	3151
09/22/2025	0	0	0	1828	1144	1597	67	4636
09/23/2025	0	0	0	1923	1164	1584	46	4717
09/24/2025	0	0	0	1995	1237	1720	69	5021
09/25/2025	0	0	0	1981	1260	1687	54	4982
09/26/2025	0	0	0	2444	1238	1654	67	5403
09/27/2025	0	0	0	2226	920	1030	39	4215
09/28/2025	0	0	0	1633	763	803	44	3243
09/29/2025	0	0	0	1906	1222	1591	68	4787
09/30/2025	0	0	0	1966	1274	1719	63	5022
Total:	0	0	0	56455	32147	42670	1620	132892