



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Finance Department

City Council Regular Meeting Date: May 5, 2026

To: City Council
From: Steve C. Chaipel, Deputy City Manager/CFO
Date: April 21, 2026

SUBJECT: Sanibel Causeway Traffic Counts – March 2026

As reported to the City by the Lee County Department of Transportation, March 2026 Sanibel Causeway inbound vehicles increased by 11.10% as compared to March 2025.

Traffic crossing the causeway continues to improve over the prior year. March 2026 traffic counts were the highest since 2022.

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2026 vs 2025	
January	311,596	190,919	252,892	261,462	273,879	12,417	4.75%
February	317,584	207,699	260,436	257,419	277,773	20,354	7.91%
March	363,863	246,296	285,946	296,471	329,376	32,905	11.10%
April	332,323	226,212	259,576	269,069	-		
May	303,569	226,250	243,399	257,569	-		
June	279,042	212,373	214,950	236,290	-		
July	299,834	212,189	227,658	245,139	-		
August	257,717	210,811	207,418	215,005	-		
September	199,312	200,549	184,669	193,419	-		
October	-	223,326	187,618	228,916	-		
November	-	213,918	224,479	230,466	-		
December	130,165	208,065	235,203	250,109	-		
YTD Total	311,596	190,919	252,892	261,462	881,028	65,676	236.96%
Total Year	2,795,005	2,578,607	2,784,244	2,941,334	881,028	65,676	(70.05%)

* 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.

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	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	Change from 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	0.68%
December	270,520	307,355	130,165	208,065	235,203	250,109	8.52%
January	282,778	311,596	190,919	252,892	261,462	273,879	9.50%
February	293,554	317,584	207,699	260,436	257,419	277,773	1.42%
March	352,029	363,863	246,296	285,946	296,471	329,376	18.58%
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		
Total FY	3,436,218	3,522,927	2,063,463	2,782,253	2,879,143	1,590,519	

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

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
October	246,035	269,353	-	223,326	187,618	228,916
November	242,527	281,379	-	213,918	224,479	230,466
December	270,520	307,355	130,165	208,065	235,203	250,109
January	282,778	311,596	190,919	252,892	261,462	273,879
February	293,554	317,584	207,699	260,436	257,419	277,773
March	352,029	363,863	246,296	285,946	296,471	329,376
FYTD	1,687,443	1,851,130	775,079	1,444,583	1,462,652	1,590,519

*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.

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PERIODIC DAILY LANE TRAFFIC REPORT

Sanibel Island

Start Date: 03/01/2026

End Date: 03/31/2026

Date	Lane 1	Lane 2	Lane 3	Total
03/01/2026	3,473	3,849	1,100	8,422
03/02/2026	3,977	4,738	1,695	10,410
03/03/2026	3,854	4,479	2,497	10,830
03/04/2026	3,990	4,840	1,769	10,599
03/05/2026	3,817	4,458	2,536	10,811
03/06/2026	4,170	5,074	1,957	11,201
03/07/2026	4,469	5,179	1,567	11,215
03/08/2026	3,848	4,314	1,345	9,507
03/09/2026	4,103	4,871	1,630	10,604
03/10/2026	4,080	4,687	2,229	10,996
03/11/2026	4,047	4,831	2,288	11,166
03/12/2026	4,081	5,048	1,866	10,995
03/13/2026	4,125	5,200	1,883	11,208
03/14/2026	4,505	5,223	1,621	11,349
03/15/2026	3,568	4,140	1,191	8,899
03/16/2026	3,978	4,659	2,102	10,739
03/17/2026	3,935	4,680	1,548	10,163
03/18/2026	4,145	4,911	1,698	10,754
03/19/2026	4,167	5,077	2,168	11,412
03/20/2026	4,174	5,042	2,464	11,680
03/21/2026	4,543	5,272	2,170	11,985
03/22/2026	3,933	4,663	1,454	10,050
03/23/2026	3,976	4,925	1,875	10,776
03/24/2026	3,896	4,797	2,143	10,836
03/25/2026	3,990	5,016	1,789	10,795
03/26/2026	3,895	4,968	1,993	10,856
03/27/2026	4,116	5,123	1,859	11,098
03/28/2026	4,454	5,373	1,703	11,530
03/29/2026	3,101	3,430	982	7,513
03/30/2026	3,881	4,692	1,567	10,140
03/31/2026	4,124	4,375	2,338	10,837
Total:	124,415	147,934	57,027	329,376

Lee County Toll System
PERIODIC DAILY AVI TRAFFIC REPORT
Sanibel Island

Start Date: 03/01/2026

End Date: 03/31/2026

Revenue Date	Prepaid Variable			Prepaid			AVI Exempt	Total
	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full		
03/01/2026	0	0	0	2883	1346	1029	32	5290
03/02/2026	0	0	0	3160	1895	1804	55	6914
03/03/2026	0	0	0	3365	1908	1880	60	7213
03/04/2026	0	0	0	3019	2001	1966	69	7055
03/05/2026	0	0	0	3381	1903	1990	52	7326
03/06/2026	0	0	0	3539	1902	1875	46	7362
03/07/2026	0	0	0	3895	1587	1258	32	6772
03/08/2026	0	0	0	3344	1358	1006	33	5741
03/09/2026	0	0	0	3215	1841	1820	51	6927
03/10/2026	0	0	0	3284	1976	1973	62	7295
03/11/2026	0	0	0	3301	1905	1987	67	7260
03/12/2026	0	0	0	3245	2038	1960	54	7297
03/13/2026	0	0	0	3509	1931	1854	36	7330
03/14/2026	0	0	0	3653	1602	1269	31	6555
03/15/2026	0	0	0	2890	1358	998	28	5274
03/16/2026	0	0	0	3292	1793	1674	37	6796
03/17/2026	0	0	0	2893	1916	1762	47	6618
03/18/2026	0	0	0	3027	1884	1905	47	6863
03/19/2026	0	0	0	3369	1948	1813	46	7176
03/20/2026	0	0	0	3784	1794	1777	32	7387
03/21/2026	0	0	0	4083	1587	1246	37	6953
03/22/2026	0	0	0	3417	1410	1007	39	5873
03/23/2026	0	0	0	3203	1903	1813	60	6979
03/24/2026	0	0	0	3230	1954	1891	60	7135
03/25/2026	0	0	0	3035	1997	1919	68	7019
03/26/2026	0	0	0	3137	1937	1912	69	7055
03/27/2026	0	0	0	3316	1860	1878	62	7116
03/28/2026	0	0	0	3653	1530	1300	37	6520
03/29/2026	0	0	0	2109	1334	963	37	4443
03/30/2026	0	0	0	2778	1755	1825	64	6422
03/31/2026	0	0	0	2985	1842	1976	68	6871
Total:	0	0	0	100994	54995	51330	1518	208837