



# AGENDA MEMORANDUM

*Finance Department*

**City Council Regular Meeting Date: March 3, 2026**

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Steve C. Chaipel, Deputy City Manager/CFO  
**Date:** February 24, 2026

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

As reported to the City by the Lee County Department of Transportation, December 2025 Sanibel Causeway inbound vehicle counts increased by 6.34% as compared to December 2024. Calendar year annual traffic for 2025 increased 5.64% from 2024.

Traffic crossing the causeway continues to improve over the prior year. December 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	250,109	14,906	6.34%
<b>YTD Total</b>	<b>3,535,223</b>	<b>2,795,005</b>	<b>2,578,607</b>	<b>2,784,244</b>	<b>2,941,334</b>	<b>157,090</b>	<b>5.64%</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>2,941,334</b>	<b>157,090</b>	<b>5.64%</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.

*Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary*

	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		
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>709,491</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
December	284,979	270,520	307,355	130,165	208,065	235,203	250,109
<b>FYTD</b>	<b>804,889</b>	<b>759,082</b>	<b>858,087</b>	<b>130,165</b>	<b>645,309</b>	<b>647,300</b>	<b>709,491</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.

*Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary*

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

Start Date: 12/01/2025

End Date: 12/31/2025

Revenue Date	Prepaid Variable			Prepaid			AVI Exempt	Total
	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full		
12/01/2025	0	0	0	2090	1589	1693	44	5416
12/02/2025	0	0	0	2143	1694	1896	59	5792
12/03/2025	0	0	0	2244	1732	1967	67	6010
12/04/2025	0	0	0	2349	1677	1922	55	6003
12/05/2025	0	0	0	2877	1786	1967	53	6683
12/06/2025	0	0	0	2175	1291	1248	35	4749
12/07/2025	0	0	0	1559	1097	938	28	3622
12/08/2025	0	0	0	2048	1589	1775	49	5461
12/09/2025	0	0	0	2078	1704	1932	66	5780
12/10/2025	0	0	0	2130	1697	1924	60	5811
12/11/2025	0	0	0	2270	1714	1939	74	5997
12/12/2025	0	0	0	2364	1652	1859	60	5935
12/13/2025	0	0	0	2116	1295	1228	36	4675
12/14/2025	0	0	0	1569	1064	935	22	3590
12/15/2025	0	0	0	2086	1551	1814	50	5501
12/16/2025	0	0	0	2295	1649	1935	55	5934
12/17/2025	0	0	0	2238	1706	1968	62	5974
12/18/2025	0	0	0	2279	1689	1964	49	5981
12/19/2025	0	0	0	2421	1716	1817	51	6005
12/20/2025	0	0	0	2211	1319	1226	29	4785
12/21/2025	0	0	0	1880	1133	926	26	3965
12/22/2025	0	0	0	2477	1648	1715	38	5878
12/23/2025	0	0	0	2611	1716	1790	37	6154
12/24/2025	0	0	0	2230	1380	1402	27	5039
12/25/2025	0	0	0	2122	604	581	17	3324
12/26/2025	0	0	0	2836	1284	1346	19	5485
12/27/2025	0	0	0	3124	1270	1133	28	5555
12/28/2025	0	0	0	3006	1193	981	24	5204
12/29/2025	0	0	0	2710	1430	1519	29	5688
12/30/2025	0	0	0	2999	1739	1691	29	6458
12/31/2025	0	0	0	2402	1498	1601	25	5526
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>71939</b>	<b>46106</b>	<b>48632</b>	<b>1303</b>	<b>167980</b>

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

Start Date: 12/01/2025 End Date: 12/31/2025

Date	Lane 1	Lane 2	Lane 3	Total
12/01/2025	3,216	3,838	719	7,773
12/02/2025	3,220	4,002	758	7,980
12/03/2025	3,435	3,924	1,016	8,375
12/04/2025	3,323	4,223	859	8,405
12/05/2025	3,742	4,683	1,126	9,551
12/06/2025	3,066	3,413	626	7,105
12/07/2025	2,364	2,527	460	5,351
12/08/2025	3,098	3,841	695	7,634
12/09/2025	3,185	4,044	822	8,051
12/10/2025	3,206	4,124	809	8,139
12/11/2025	3,358	4,199	879	8,436
12/12/2025	3,373	4,137	910	8,420
12/13/2025	2,939	3,330	635	6,904
12/14/2025	2,289	2,585	383	5,257
12/15/2025	3,116	3,965	766	7,847
12/16/2025	3,355	4,193	840	8,388
12/17/2025	3,334	4,013	872	8,219
12/18/2025	3,369	4,114	822	8,305
12/19/2025	3,391	4,227	886	8,504
12/20/2025	3,151	3,609	679	7,439
12/21/2025	2,652	2,975	521	6,148
12/22/2025	3,551	4,226	940	8,717
12/23/2025	3,779	4,447	1,013	9,239
12/24/2025	3,201	3,669	750	7,620
12/25/2025	2,747	2,651	435	5,833
12/26/2025	3,960	4,264	917	9,141
12/27/2025	4,259	4,596	999	9,854
12/28/2025	3,988	4,308	923	9,219
12/29/2025	3,503	3,962	1,762	9,227
12/30/2025	4,276	4,911	1,151	10,338
12/31/2025	3,622	4,145	923	8,690
<b>Total:</b>	<b>103,068</b>	<b>121,145</b>	<b>25,896</b>	<b>250,109</b>