



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Recreation Department

City Council Meeting Date: April 21, 2026

To: City Council
From: Andrea Miller, Recreation Director
Charlotte Durand, Recreation Deputy Director
Date: April 6, 2026

Subject: 2026 Shared Use Path (SUP) Survey Results

Background: The Shared Use Path Master Plan was developed in 2009 by the City of Sanibel to provide both residents and visitors a recreational and leisure way of transportation throughout the island. At the beginning and throughout its enhancements, the safety of shared use path users is one of the highest priorities in the City's Master Plan. In 2006 and 2012, surveys were conducted to assess traffic at notable intersections along the shared use path. Since then, three recent surveys have been conducted in 2024, 2025 and 2026 to evaluate usage trends and track the continued emergence of E-bikes on the SUP.

The City of Sanibel was designated a Bicycle Friendly Community (BFC) and awarded gold status by *The League of American Bicyclists* in 2010. Gold award status is currently valid through 2027, with the renewal application due by June 17, 2026. Judges evaluate each application based on the desire of the municipality to improve biking for the unique needs of the people who live and visit the community. Higher award levels will be presented to renewing applicants who have consistently monitored the bicycle usage of the community. Retaining this prestigious gold designation is valuable for The City of Sanibel as it attracts both residents and tourists from around the globe. All Bicycle Friendly America (BFA) awardees are promoted on the League's interactive online [Bicycle Friendly America Awards map](#) and on their [Connect Locally map](#).

Previous Studies:

The first three surveys (2006, 2012, 2024) were conducted in late April on a Thursday afternoon from 12:30 until 4:30 p.m. and the following Saturday morning from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. The past two surveys (2025, 2026) were conducted in early April using the same timeframes to better capture what Sanibel looks like at the height of season. E-bikes were not prevalent in the first two studies, so there is no historical data on E-bike usage on the shared use path for 2006 and 2012. In 2024, 2025 and 2026, counts were collected on E-bikes as part of the survey.

New Study Results:

In the past two studies, 2025 and 2026, the surveys were conducted in mid-March with this year's beginning on Thursday, March 12th from 12:30 until 4:30 p.m. and concluding Saturday, March 14th from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. A reasonable margin of error must be considered, as volunteers were responsible for observing and recording usage with the human eye and hand-written tally sheets. It should also be noted that these studies were conducted less than four years after hurricane Ian struck Sanibel Island, and about two years after hurricane Helene and Milton did considerable damage as well.

Below are the results of the new 2026 study, complete with usage change from the three prior studies for comparable data. For viewing ease, the current 2026 results have been highlighted in light blue.

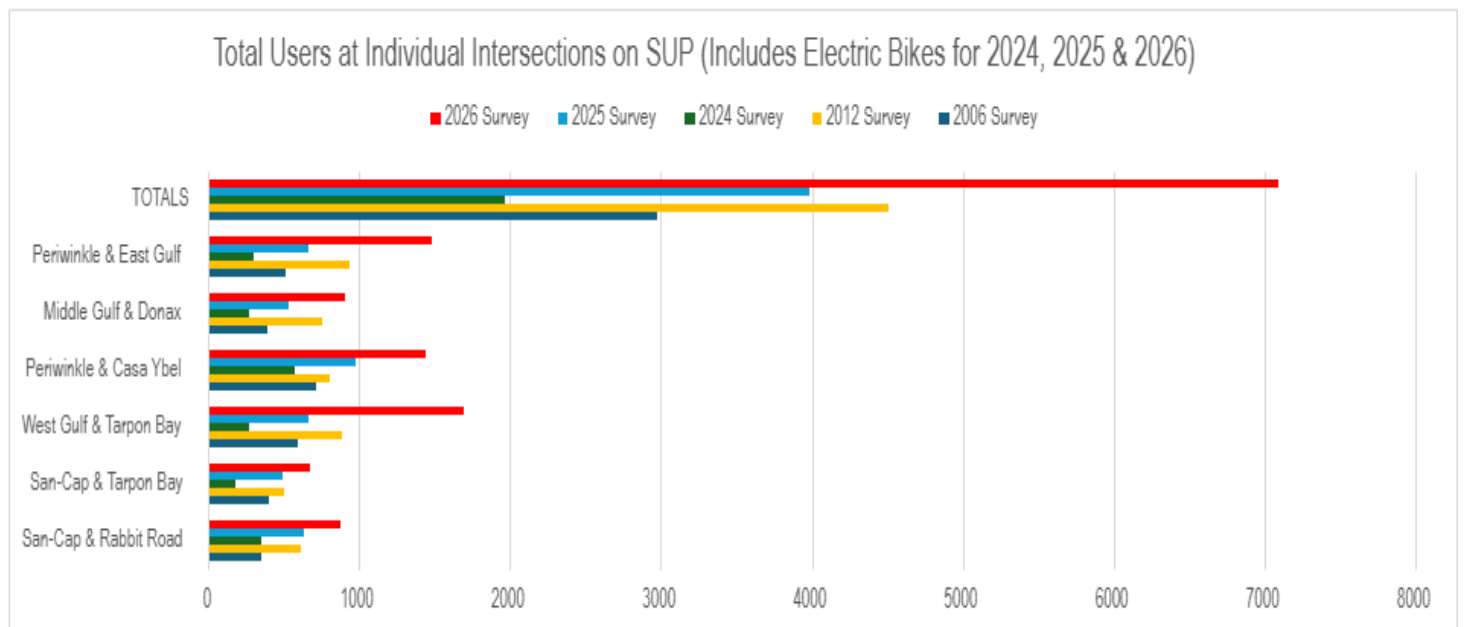
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Total Users at Individual Intersections:

Exhibit I.

Total Users at Individual Intersections on SUP								
Intersections	San-Cap & Rabbit Road	San-Cap & Tarpon Bay	West Gulf & Tarpon Bay	Periwinkle & Casa Ybel	Middle Gulf & Donax	Periwinkle & East Gulf	TOTALS	% Change from Previous Year
2006 Survey	357	400	594	719	390	519	2979	
2012 Survey	616	509	886	806	754	935	4506	45%
2024 Survey	351	180	273	579	278	307	1968	-53%
2025 Survey	636	498	663	982	540	663	3982	102%
2026 Survey	881	679	1700	1443	909	1479	7091	78%

Graph 1.



- Bikes on the road were included in these counts.

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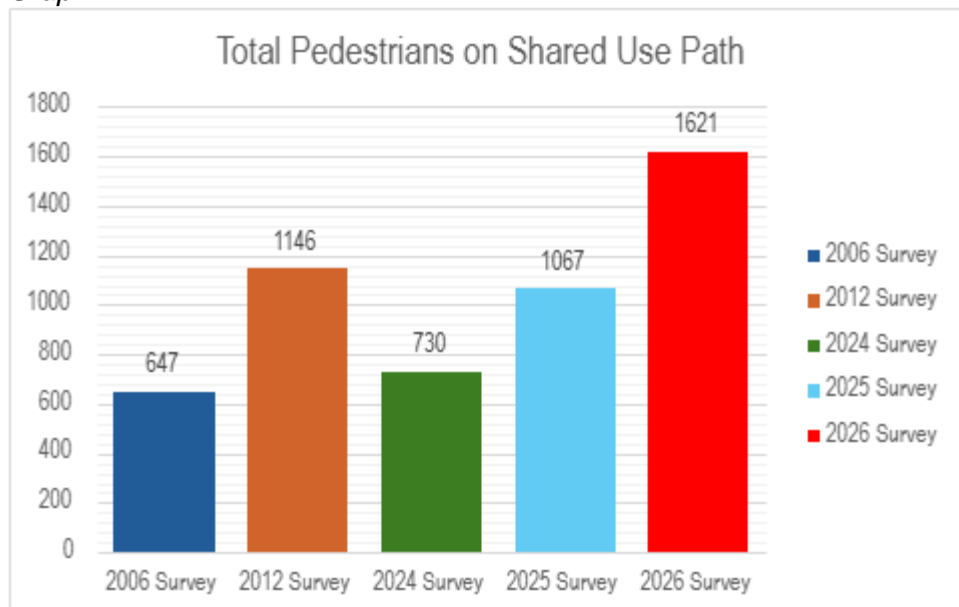
Pedestrians at Individual Locations on SUP:

Exhibit II.

Intersections	San-Cap & Rabbit Road	San-Cap & Tarpon Bay	West Gulf & Tarpon Bay	Periwinkle & Casa Ybel	Middle Gulf & Donax	Periwinkle & East Gulf	TOTALS	% Change from Previous Year
2006 Survey	8	14	485	33	107	8	647	
2012 Survey	28	10	818	115	175	195	1146	77%
2024 Survey	13	7	623	14	73	123	730	-36%
2025 Survey	27	29	748	92	171	223	1067	46%
2026 Survey	10	23	840	100	184	464	1621	52%

Total Pedestrians on the Shared Use Path:

Graph II.



- Pedestrians include both walkers and runners/joggers for all surveys.

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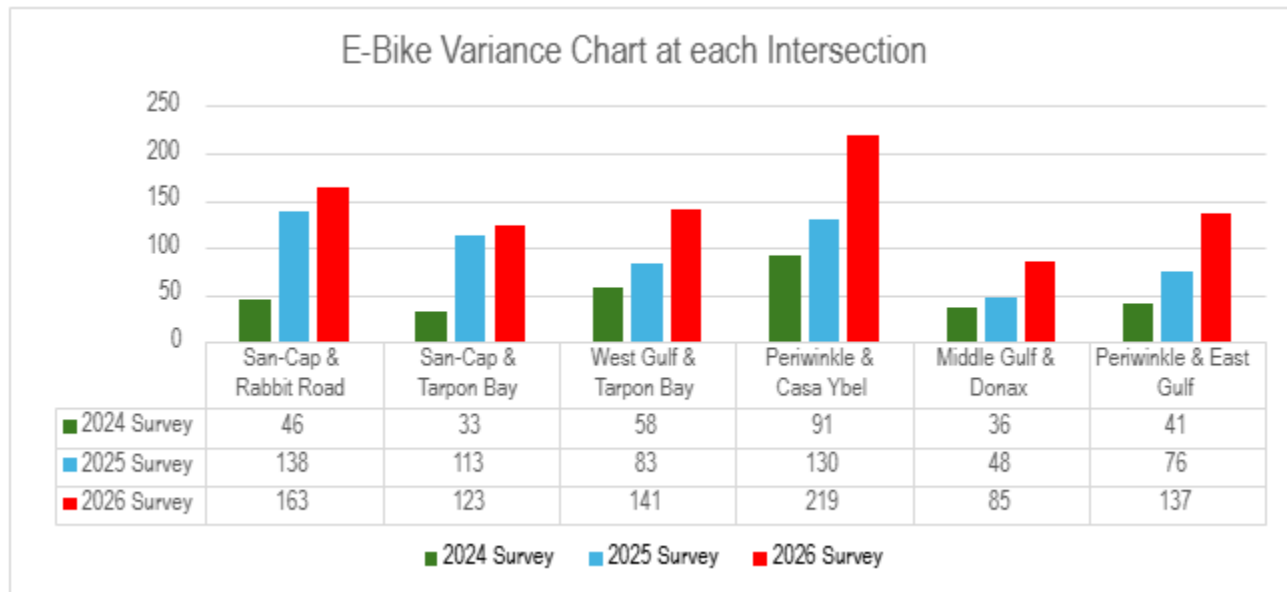
E-Bikes at Individual Intersections:

Exhibit III.

E-Bike Totals at Individual Intersections								
Intersections	San-Cap & Rabbit Road	San-Cap & Tarpon Bay	West Gulf & Tarpon Bay	Periwinkle & Casa Ybel	Middle Gulf & Donax	Periwinkle & East Gulf	TOTAL	% Change from Previous Year
2024 Survey	46	33	58	91	36	41	305	
2025 Survey	138	113	83	130	48	76	588	93%
2026 Survey	163	123	141	219	85	137	868	45%

- 2024, 2025 & 2026 are the only E-bike data collection years.

Graph III.



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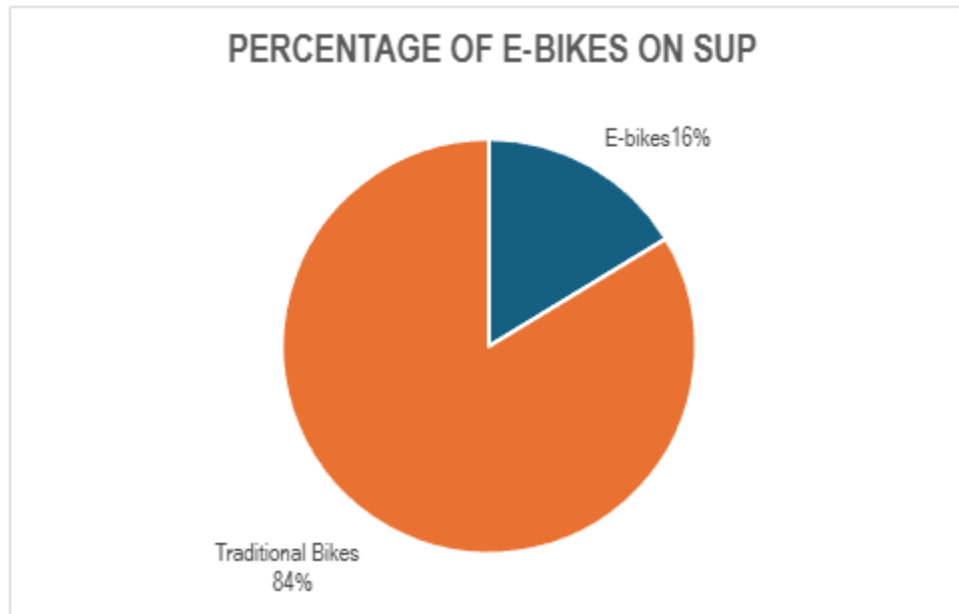
E-Bikes Compared to Traditional Bikes:

Exhibit IV.

Electric Bikes Vs. Traditional Bikes 2024 vs. 2025 vs.2026			
Type of Bike	2024	2025	2026
Electric Bike Riders	305	588	868
Traditional Bike Riders	1663	3394	4451
Total Riders combined	1968	3982	5319
% of Bikes that are Electric	15%	15%	16%

- Totals for traditional bikes and E-bikes for this comparison in Exhibit IV include those observed on the SUP (does not include bikes on the road).

Graph IV.



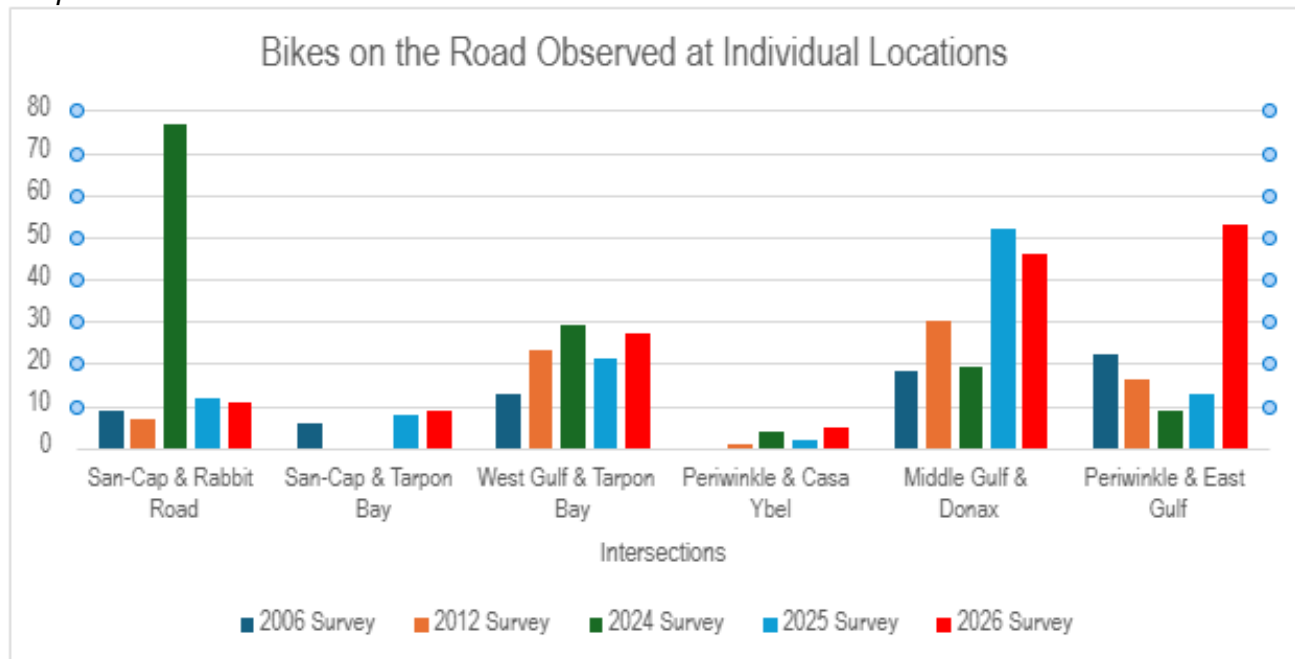
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Bicycles on the Road:

Exhibit V.

Bikes Observed on the Road at Individual Intersections								
Intersections	San-Cap & Rabbit Road	San-Cap & Tarpon Bay	West Gulf & Tarpon Bay	Periwinkle & Casa Ybel	Middle Gulf & Donax	Periwinkle & East Gulf	TOTAL	% Change from Previous Year
2006 Survey	9	6	13	0	18	22	68	
2012 Survey	7	0	23	1	30	16	77	13%
2024 Survey	77	0	29	4	19	9	138	79%
2025 Survey	12	8	21	2	52	13	108	-22%
2026 Survey	11	9	27	5	46	53	151	40%

Graph V.



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Bicycle Rentals:

Exhibit VI.

Rental Bikes on Shared Use Path		% Change from Previous Year
2006 Survey	1215	
2012 Survey	1811	49%
2024 Survey	313	-83%
2025 Survey	931	197%
2026 Survey	1913	105%

- Rental bikes include bicycles with attached signs displaying the name of a rental facility (does not include bikes on the road).

Total Overall Shared Use Path Users of All Types:

Exhibit VII.

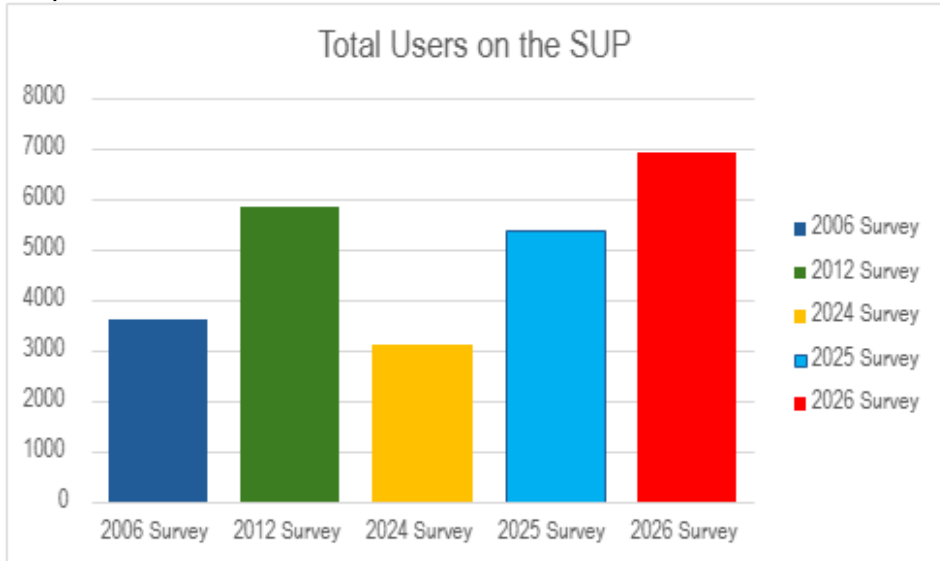
Overall Shared Use Path Users		% Change from Previous Year
2006 Survey	3634	
2012 Survey	5847	61%
2024 Survey	3134	-46%
2025 Survey	5380	72%
2026 Survey	6940	29%

- Totals for Exhibit VII include all users of all types at all locations ON the Shared Use Path (does not include bikes on the road)
- Total overall shared use path users of all types have increased by 91% since 2006 and are 29% higher than the study in 2025.

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Total Overall Shared Use Path Users of All Types:

Graph VII.



Bicycle Riders Wearing a Helmet:

Exhibit VIII.

Total Bike Riders with Helmets	With Helmets	Total Bike Riders	% of Bike Riders wearing a helmet	% Change from Previous Year
2006 Survey	1103	2979	37%	
2012 Survey	1773	4506	38%	1%
2024 Survey	683	1968	51%	13%
2025 Survey	1715	3982	43%	-8%
2026 Survey	2197	5319	41%	-2%

- Total of 5,319 only includes traditional and E-bike totals (does not include bikes on the road).

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Summary of Results:

- Total overall users of all types at SUP locations have increased to over 7,000 participants (7091 in 2026). The second closest total was in 2012 with a total of 4506; up 64%.
- Total users on the SUP have increased by 42% since the original study in 2006 and almost doubled since the study from 2025 (3982 to 7091).
- Over one half of the total pedestrian traffic (840 of 1621; 52%) on the SUP was observed at the West Gulf and Tarpon Intersection; this location also had the highest usage of all locations at 1700 users (6 total intersections were considered).
- Electric bicycles represent 16% of total bicycle riders on the SUP, with 868 E-bikes observed. For this study, **ALL** intersection recorded equal distribution of E-bike activity; whereas a large majority (42%) of E-bikes were observed at only two intersections studied at Sanibel Captiva Road in 2025. E-bike class was not recorded.
- Bicycle usage on the road has trended up and is at an all-time high, up by 40% from 2025 and over doubling since 2006 (68 to 151). Worth noting, various locations have led each year the study has been conducted, leading the charge in 2026 was Periwinkle Way and East Gulf Drive.
- The number of bike riders wearing helmets has decreased slightly over the past year (down just 2% from 2025), representing 41% of all bicyclists. In 2006, 37% of bicyclists were using a helmet which remained consistent in the 2012 study, where 38% of bike riders wore helmets.
- Rental Bikes users have increased by 64% since 2006 and over 105% since 2025.
- See *Appendix A* for 2025 Shared Use Path Accident/Incident Report summary from the Sanibel Police Department.

Appendix A

Shared Use Path Accident/Incident Report Summary Sanibel Police Department 2025

Incident #	Situation Found	Sub Situation	Disposition	Reported Date	Location
S25-000055	CRASH [SPD]	BICYCLE [CRASH]	D13 CRASH REPORT COMPLETED	01/01/2025 10:34	6497 SANIBEL CAPTIVA RD, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-002130	CRASH [SPD]	BICYCLE [CRASH]	D13 CRASH REPORT COMPLETED	01/13/2025 16:43	1015 PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-002482	DAMAGE TO CITY PROPERTY [SPD]	Class 2 E-Bike	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	01/15/2025 15:38	1156 PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-005761	SHARED USE PATH INCIDENT [SPD]	BICYCLE [SUP]	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	01/31/2025 12:56	4044 SANIBEL CAPTIVA RD, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-006504	SHARED USE PATH INCIDENT [SPD]	BICYCLE [SUP]	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	02/04/2025 12:23	1191 MIDDLE GULF DR, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-006709	SHARED USE PATH INCIDENT [SPD]	BICYCLE [SUP]	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	02/05/2025 11:43	MIDDLE GULF DR/FULGUR ST, SANIBEL
S25-006861	BATTERY [SPD]	BICYCLE [SUP]	D04C CRIME REPORT	02/06/2025 11:33	3402 WEST GULF DR, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-008175	CRASH [SPD]	BICYCLE [SUP]	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	02/13/2025 10:07	770 DONAX ST, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-009080	SHARED USE PATH INCIDENT [SPD]	BICYCLE [SUP]	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	02/18/2025 13:13	348 CASA YBEL RD, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-010524	911 CALL [SPD]	E-Bike/UNK Class	D06 TURNED OVER TO	02/25/2025 10:21	1250 PAR VIEW DR, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-011316	INFORMATION [SPD]	BICYCLE [SUP]	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	03/01/2025 12:52	PERIWINKLE WAY/DONAX ST, SANIBEL
S25-012247	CRASH [SPD]	BICYCLE [SUP]	D14 DRIVERS EXCHANGE	03/06/2025 13:23	1619 PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-012638	INFORMATION [SPD]	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	03/08/2025 11:14	3840 SANIBEL CAPTIVA, SANIBEL
S25-013409	CRASH [SPD]	BICYCLE /ROADWAY	D13 CRASH REPORT COMPLETED	03/12/2025 10:39	PERIWINKLE WAY/FARM TRL, SANIBEL
S25-015683	VIOLATION CITY ORDINANCE [SPD]	Class 2 E-Bike	D03 ALL OK	03/25/2025 16:09	1700 PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-015685	VIOLATION CITY ORDINANCE [SPD]	Class 2 E-Bike	D21 VCO WARNING ISSUED	03/25/2025 16:26	1700 PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-016222	SHARED USE PATH INCIDENT [SPD]	BICYCLE [CRASH]	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	03/28/2025 13:25	TARPON BAY RD / WEST GULF DR, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-016553	911 CALL [SPD]	MEDIC CALL [911]	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	03/30/2025 12:40	2265 WEST GULF DR, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-017068	SHARED USE PATH INCIDENT [SPD]	BICYCLE [CRASH]	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	04/02/2025 08:36	203 TARPON BAY RD, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-018901	TRAFFIC STOP [SPD]	BICYCLE [SUP]	D10 TICKET ISSUED	04/11/2025 21:55	DIXIE BEACH BLVD / CENTRE ST, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-019586	CRASH [SPD]	BICYCLE [CRASH]	D13 CRASH REPORT COMPLETED	04/15/2025 07:47	SKIFF FL / PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-019753	911 CALL [SPD]	MEDIC CALL [911]	D06 TURNED OVER TO	04/16/2025 10:01	SANIBEL CAPTIVA RD / TAMARIND RD, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-020108	TRAFFIC STOP [SPD]	BICYCLE [SUP]	D21 VCO WARNING ISSUED	04/18/2025 22:02	1200 PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-021745	INFORMATION [SPD]	BICYCLE [SUP]	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	04/28/2025 08:35	TARPON BAY RD / WEST GULF DR, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-022507	SHARED USE PATH INCIDENT [SPD]	Class 1 E-Bike	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	05/01/2025 16:36	1704 PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-026269	SHARED USE PATH INCIDENT [SPD]	E-BIKE [SUP]	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	05/20/2025 17:26	PERIWINKLE WAY / DONAX ST, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-029272	CRASH [SPD]	E-Minibike	D13 CRASH REPORT COMPLETED	06/03/2025 12:23	1203 PERIWINKLE, SANIBEL, FLORIDA, 33957
S25-032802	TRAFFIC STOP [SPD]	BICYCLE [CRASH]	D09 WARNING ISSUED	06/21/2025 07:43	PERIWINKLE WAY / DONAX ST, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-032864	CRASH [SPD]	BICYCLE [CRASH]	D13 CRASH REPORT COMPLETED	06/22/2025 07:59	DIXIE BCH, SANIBEL, FLORIDA, 33957
S25-033921	SHARED USE PATH INCIDENT [SPD]	Scotter	D21 VCO WARNING ISSUED	06/26/2025 12:15	FEN SHELL DR / PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-036563	ASSIST [SPD]	PERSON [ASSIST]	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	07/20/2025 10:20	5116 SANIBEL CAPTIVA RD, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-039335	911 CALL [SPD]	MEDIC CALL [911]	D06 TURNED OVER TO	07/23/2025 16:00	1873 PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-039836	911 CALL [SPD]	MEDIC CALL [911]	D06 TURNED OVER TO	07/28/2025 09:56	4092 SANIBEL CAPTIVA RD, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-040927	CHECK WELL BEING [SPD]	D01 UNFOUNDED	D01 UNFOUNDED	07/30/2025 15:37	2340 PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-051046	911 CALL [SPD]	MEDIC CALL [911]	D06 TURNED OVER TO	09/20/2025 12:36	MARTHAS LN / PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-057527	SHARED USE PATH INCIDENT [SPD]	E-BIKE [CRASH]	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	10/24/2025 11:04	1700 PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-058193	SHARED USE PATH INCIDENT [SPD]	MEDIC CALL [911]	D18 CALL HANDLED BY DISPATCH	10/27/2025 13:21	1675 PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-059128	SHARED USE PATH INCIDENT [SPD]	BICYCLE [SUP]	D06 TURNED OVER TO	11/01/2025 09:25	2265 WEST GULF DR, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-062042	ASSIST [SPD]	Class 2 E-Bike	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	11/13/2025 21:51	DIXIE BEACH BLVD / PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-062821	SHARED USE PATH INCIDENT [SPD]	BICYCLIST [ASSIST]	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	11/17/2025 11:32	CASA YBEL RD / MIDDLE GULF DR, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-063054	TRAFFIC STOP [SPD]	D10 TICKET ISSUED	D10 TICKET ISSUED	11/18/2025 11:12	2475 WEST GULF DR, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-063946	SHARED USE PATH INCIDENT [SPD]	E-BIKE [SUP]	D06 TURNED OVER TO	11/22/2025 12:53	1619 PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL, FL, 33957
S25-070245	SHARED USE PATH INCIDENT [SPD]	BICYCLE [SUP]	D04 WRITTEN REPORT	12/20/2025 15:35	CASA YBEL RD, SANIBEL, FLORIDA, 33957
S25-072441	ASSIST [SPD]	BICYCLE	D09 WARNING ISSUED	12/30/2025 15:13	TARPON BAY RD / WEST GULF DR, SANIBEL, FL, 33957