



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Finance Department

City Council Regular Meeting Date: July 15, 2025

To: City Council
From: Steve C. Chaipel, Deputy City Manager/CFO
Date: June 11, 2025

SUBJECT: Sanibel Causeway Traffic Counts – May 2025

As reported to the City by Lee County, the May 2025 Sanibel Causeway inbound vehicle counts increased by 5.82% as compared to May 2024.

The Causeway restoration Phase 1 project has been completed, and the islands are open to the public. As construction activities significantly decline, an increase in vehicular traffic is anticipated in the area until the next phase of activity begins. This transition phase may require adjustments to current traffic management to ensure smooth traffic flow and minimize congestion.

	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			
July	307,599	299,834	212,189	227,658			
August	252,803	257,717	210,811	207,418			
September	233,764	199,312	200,549	184,669			
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	3,535,223	2,795,005	2,578,607	2,784,244	1,341,990	39,741	5.82%
Total Year	3,535,223	2,795,005	2,578,607	2,784,244	1,341,990	39,741	(51.80%)

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	-	
July	255,010	307,599	299,834	212,189	227,658	-	
August	233,491	252,803	257,717	210,811	207,418	-	
September	218,338	233,764	199,312	200,549	184,669	-	
Total FY	3,013,469	3,436,218	3,522,927	2,063,463	2,782,253	1,989,290	

* 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
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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	-
July	318,315	282,778	311,596	190,919	227,658	-
August	233,491	252,803	257,717	210,811	207,418	-
September	218,338	233,764	199,312	200,549	226,250	-
FYTD	2,054,630	2,341,264	2,487,022	1,227,541	1,947,558	1,989,290

*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 island 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.

Lee County Toll System
PERIODIC DAILY AVI TRAFFIC REPORT
Sanibel Island

Start Date: 05/01/2025

End Date: 05/31/2025

Revenue Date	Prepaid Variable			Prepaid			AVI Exempt	Total
	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full		
05/01/2025	0	0	0	2839	1604	1750	72	6265
05/02/2025	0	0	0	3114	1627	1755	58	6554
05/03/2025	0	0	0	3074	1201	1082	37	5394
05/04/2025	0	0	0	1899	949	795	33	3676
05/05/2025	0	0	0	2540	1559	1638	62	5799
05/06/2025	0	0	0	2540	1532	1763	58	5893
05/07/2025	0	0	0	2586	1583	1798	67	6034
05/08/2025	0	0	0	2679	1566	1757	54	6056
05/09/2025	0	0	0	2966	1498	1732	46	6242
05/10/2025	0	0	0	2799	1168	1100	30	5097
05/11/2025	0	0	0	2453	957	816	40	4266
05/12/2025	0	0	0	1915	1324	1595	46	4880
05/13/2025	0	0	0	2504	1546	1704	52	5806
05/14/2025	0	0	0	2571	1557	1785	53	5966
05/15/2025	0	0	0	2679	1545	1723	64	6011
05/16/2025	0	0	0	2923	1436	1742	40	6141
05/17/2025	0	0	0	3053	1091	1106	18	5268
05/18/2025	0	0	0	2360	873	801	26	4060
05/19/2025	0	0	0	2391	1423	1690	57	5561
05/20/2025	0	0	0	2470	1440	1729	53	5692
05/21/2025	0	0	0	2570	1440	1766	72	5848
05/22/2025	0	0	0	2745	1471	1768	61	6045
05/23/2025	0	0	0	3072	1437	1696	71	6276
05/24/2025	0	0	0	3580	1101	1072	40	5793
05/25/2025	0	0	0	3507	910	838	39	5294
05/26/2025	0	0	0	2635	824	922	56	4437
05/27/2025	0	0	0	2423	1452	1739	64	5678
05/28/2025	0	0	0	2441	1395	1763	60	5659
05/29/2025	0	0	0	2528	1371	1745	66	5710
05/30/2025	0	0	0	2702	1337	1748	51	5838
05/31/2025	0	0	0	2032	906	1098	19	4055
Total:	0	0	0	82590	41123	46016	1565	171294

PERIODIC DAILY LANE TRAFFIC REPORT

Sanibel Island

Start Date: 05/01/2025

End Date: 05/31/2025

Date	Lane 1	Lane 2	Total
05/01/2025	4,262	4,875	9,137
05/02/2025	4,367	5,223	9,590
05/03/2025	3,972	4,745	8,717
05/04/2025	2,796	2,966	5,762
05/05/2025	3,713	4,615	8,328
05/06/2025	3,818	4,735	8,553
05/07/2025	3,865	4,883	8,748
05/08/2025	4,137	4,754	8,891
05/09/2025	4,274	4,844	9,118
05/10/2025	3,773	4,453	8,226
05/11/2025	3,155	3,518	6,673
05/12/2025	3,031	3,663	6,694
05/13/2025	3,515	4,795	8,310
05/14/2025	3,720	4,814	8,534
05/15/2025	3,785	4,918	8,703
05/16/2025	2,643	6,455	9,098
05/17/2025	3,869	4,684	8,553
05/18/2025	3,222	3,671	6,893
05/19/2025	3,598	4,468	8,066
05/20/2025	3,703	4,530	8,233
05/21/2025	3,664	4,710	8,374
05/22/2025	3,812	4,884	8,696
05/23/2025	5,791	3,596	9,387
05/24/2025	5,751	3,830	9,581
05/25/2025	4,426	4,541	8,967
05/26/2025	3,699	3,537	7,236
05/27/2025	5,115	3,219	8,334
05/28/2025	3,843	4,449	8,292
05/29/2025	3,279	5,093	8,372
05/30/2025	4,163	4,604	8,767
05/31/2025	3,308	3,428	6,736
Total:	120,069	137,500	257,569