



## AGENDA MEMORANDUM

*Finance Department*

**City Council Regular Meeting Date: October 7, 2025**

**To:** City Council  
**From:** Steve C. Chaipel, Deputy City Manager/CFO  
**Date:** September 9, 2025

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

As reported to the City by Lee County, the August 2025 Sanibel Causeway inbound vehicle counts increased by 3.66% as compared to August 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	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			
October	269,353	-	223,326	187,618			
November	281,379	-	213,918	224,479			
December	307,355	130,165	208,065	235,203			
<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>2,038,424</b>	<b>86,149</b>	<b>3.66%</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>2,038,424</b>	<b>86,149</b>	<b>(26.79%)</b>

\* Table compares prior year's monthly activity with current year's monthly activity

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.

October 1, 2025

	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	-	
<b>Total FY</b>	<b>3,013,469</b>	<b>3,436,218</b>	<b>3,522,927</b>	<b>2,063,463</b>	<b>2,782,253</b>	<b>2,685,724</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
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	-
<b>FYTD</b>	<b>2,858,436</b>	<b>3,177,633</b>	<b>3,335,377</b>	<b>1,841,644</b>	<b>2,597,584</b>	<b>2,685,724</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 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: 08/01/2025

End Date: 08/31/2025

Revenue Date	Prepaid Variable			Prepaid			AVI Exempt	Total
	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full		
08/01/2025	0	0	0	2768	1182	1616	54	5620
08/02/2025	0	0	0	2840	882	1004	38	4764
08/03/2025	0	0	0	2188	757	791	26	3762
08/04/2025	0	0	0	2289	1126	1527	53	4995
08/05/2025	0	0	0	2266	1262	1631	58	5217
08/06/2025	0	0	0	2140	1204	1592	47	4983
08/07/2025	0	0	0	2195	1260	1671	53	5179
08/08/2025	0	0	0	2532	1223	1643	45	5443
08/09/2025	0	0	0	2077	882	1000	33	3992
08/10/2025	0	0	0	1092	655	753	27	2527
08/11/2025	0	0	0	2101	1230	1582	53	4966
08/12/2025	0	0	0	2034	1210	1716	68	5028
08/13/2025	0	0	0	2203	1248	1717	74	5242
08/14/2025	0	0	0	2175	1247	1715	67	5204
08/15/2025	0	0	0	2424	1209	1677	69	5379
08/16/2025	0	0	0	2482	898	1038	25	4443
08/17/2025	0	0	0	1810	718	796	31	3355
08/18/2025	0	0	0	1971	1147	1598	52	4768
08/19/2025	0	0	0	1929	1156	1687	82	4854
08/20/2025	0	0	0	2041	1185	1664	65	4955
08/21/2025	0	0	0	2025	1143	1685	56	4909
08/22/2025	0	0	0	2298	1173	1639	59	5169
08/23/2025	0	0	0	1458	712	969	18	3157
08/24/2025	0	0	0	1046	652	781	24	2503
08/25/2025	0	0	0	1818	1149	1602	53	4622
08/26/2025	0	0	0	1859	1187	1686	57	4789
08/27/2025	0	0	0	1891	1222	1715	68	4896
08/28/2025	0	0	0	2141	1190	1717	69	5117
08/29/2025	0	0	0	2543	1173	1692	63	5471
08/30/2025	0	0	0	2678	882	1025	40	4625
08/31/2025	0	0	0	2101	682	790	36	3609
Total:	0	0	0	65415	32846	43719	1563	143543

## PERIODIC DAILY LANE TRAFFIC REPORT

## Sanibel Island

Start Date: 08/01/2025

End Date: 08/31/2025

Date	Lane 1	Lane 2	Lane 3	Total
08/01/2025	3,845	4,747	0	8,592
08/02/2025	3,725	4,106	1	7,832
08/03/2025	2,992	3,162	2	6,156
08/04/2025	3,461	4,136	0	7,597
08/05/2025	3,572	4,147	0	7,719
08/06/2025	3,507	4,115	0	7,622
08/07/2025	3,486	4,194	0	7,680
08/08/2025	3,781	4,455	0	8,236
08/09/2025	3,212	3,194	0	6,406
08/10/2025	2,028	1,859	2	3,889
08/11/2025	3,370	3,929	0	7,299
08/12/2025	3,374	4,015	0	7,389
08/13/2025	3,515	4,242	5	7,762
08/14/2025	3,259	4,175	152	7,586
08/15/2025	3,533	4,227	259	8,019
08/16/2025	3,280	3,637	254	7,171
08/17/2025	2,507	2,565	201	5,273
08/18/2025	3,003	3,676	244	6,923
08/19/2025	3,038	3,732	244	7,014
08/20/2025	3,107	3,709	339	7,155
08/21/2025	2,931	3,809	315	7,055
08/22/2025	3,285	3,876	393	7,554
08/23/2025	2,230	2,283	162	4,675
08/24/2025	1,791	1,749	124	3,664
08/25/2025	2,885	3,456	277	6,618
08/26/2025	2,870	3,638	350	6,858
08/27/2025	2,888	3,802	281	6,971
08/28/2025	3,161	3,778	322	7,261
08/29/2025	3,422	4,386	250	8,058
08/30/2025	3,423	3,570	340	7,333
08/31/2025	2,601	2,742	295	5,638
Total:	97,082	113,111	4,812	215,005