



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Finance Department

City Council Regular Meeting Date: December 2, 2025

To: City Council
From: Steve C. Chaipel, Deputy City Manager/CFO
Date: November 25, 2025

SUBJECT: Sanibel Causeway Traffic Counts – October 2025

As reported to the City by the Lee County Department of Transportation, October 2025 Sanibel Causeway inbound vehicle counts increased by 22.0% as compared to October 2024.

Traffic crossing the causeway continues to improve over the prior year. The October 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			
December	307,355	130,165	208,065	235,203			
YTD Total	2,946,489	2,664,840	2,156,624	2,324,562	2,460,759	136,197	5.86%
Total Year	3,535,223	2,795,005	2,578,607	2,784,244	2,460,759	136,197	(11.62%)

* 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.

November 25, 2025

	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		
December	270,520	307,355	130,165	208,065	235,203		
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		
Total FY	3,436,218	3,522,927	2,063,463	2,782,253	2,879,143	228,916	

* 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
FYTD	253,144	246,035	269,353	-	223,326	187,618	228,916

*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.

Lee County Toll System
PERIODIC DAILY AVI TRAFFIC REPORT
Sanibel Island

Start Date: 10/01/2025

End Date: 10/31/2025

Revenue Date	Prepaid Variable			Prepaid			AVI Exempt	Total
	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full		
10/01/2025	0	0	0	1980	1303	1757	60	5100
10/02/2025	0	0	0	2036	1271	1700	57	5064
10/03/2025	0	0	0	2247	1273	1733	46	5299
10/04/2025	0	0	0	1978	981	1036	32	4027
10/05/2025	0	0	0	1553	820	800	29	3202
10/06/2025	0	0	0	1884	1234	1676	64	4858
10/07/2025	0	0	0	1945	1343	1775	57	5120
10/08/2025	0	0	0	2141	1362	1775	70	5348
10/09/2025	0	0	0	2119	1346	1817	56	5338
10/10/2025	0	0	0	2248	1318	1755	44	5365
10/11/2025	0	0	0	2048	1074	1068	31	4221
10/12/2025	0	0	0	2135	931	858	33	3957
10/13/2025	0	0	0	2267	1270	1516	39	5092
10/14/2025	0	0	0	2237	1404	1750	59	5450
10/15/2025	0	0	0	2253	1455	1821	78	5607
10/16/2025	0	0	0	2255	1458	1785	64	5562
10/17/2025	0	0	0	2521	1493	1792	62	5868
10/18/2025	0	0	0	2303	1169	1094	39	4605
10/19/2025	0	0	0	1768	914	888	27	3597
10/20/2025	0	0	0	2050	1400	1719	68	5237
10/21/2025	0	0	0	2069	1479	1783	73	5404
10/22/2025	0	0	0	2212	1485	1897	68	5662
10/23/2025	0	0	0	2350	1520	1810	68	5748
10/24/2025	0	0	0	2490	1434	1827	67	5818
10/25/2025	0	0	0	2308	1180	1193	36	4717
10/26/2025	0	0	0	1642	981	858	25	3506
10/27/2025	0	0	0	1992	1528	1772	62	5354
10/28/2025	0	0	0	2191	1559	1861	73	5684
10/29/2025	0	0	0	2077	1590	1932	75	5674
10/30/2025	0	0	0	2209	1601	1939	73	5822
10/31/2025	0	0	0	2160	1577	1910	55	5702
Total:	0	0	0	65668	40753	48897	1690	157008

PERIODIC DAILY LANE TRAFFIC REPORT

Sanibel Island

Start Date: 10/01/2025

End Date: 10/31/2025

Date	Lane 1	Lane 2	Lane 3	Total
10/01/2025	3,004	3,696	488	7,188
10/02/2025	2,889	3,763	608	7,260
10/03/2025	3,220	3,879	633	7,732
10/04/2025	2,812	3,044	395	6,251
10/05/2025	2,264	2,368	313	4,945
10/06/2025	2,455	3,977	559	6,991
10/07/2025	3,044	3,662	601	7,307
10/08/2025	3,220	3,788	621	7,629
10/09/2025	3,202	3,924	622	7,748
10/10/2025	3,243	3,939	657	7,839
10/11/2025	3,069	3,158	429	6,656
10/12/2025	2,802	2,872	451	6,125
10/13/2025	3,175	3,780	558	7,513
10/14/2025	3,314	3,927	662	7,903
10/15/2025	3,330	4,081	663	8,074
10/16/2025	3,258	4,030	708	7,996
10/17/2025	3,589	4,262	812	8,663
10/18/2025	3,163	3,485	497	7,145
10/19/2025	2,524	2,645	395	5,564
10/20/2025	3,178	3,805	627	7,610
10/21/2025	3,166	3,861	649	7,676
10/22/2025	3,302	4,021	732	8,055
10/23/2025	3,347	4,080	815	8,242
10/24/2025	3,456	4,202	778	8,436
10/25/2025	3,174	3,488	524	7,186
10/26/2025	2,406	2,586	350	5,342
10/27/2025	3,098	3,844	600	7,542
10/28/2025	3,215	3,990	747	7,952
10/29/2025	3,284	4,036	757	8,077
10/30/2025	3,318	4,115	752	8,185
10/31/2025	3,260	4,100	724	8,084
Total:	95,781	114,408	18,727	228,916