



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Finance Department

City Council Regular Meeting Date: January 13, 2026

To: City Council
From: Steve C. Chaipel, Deputy City Manager/CFO
Date: December 30, 2025

SUBJECT: Sanibel Causeway Traffic Counts – November 2025

As reported to the City by the Lee County Department of Transportation, November 2025 Sanibel Causeway inbound vehicle counts increased by 2.67% as compared to November 2024.

Traffic crossing the causeway continues to improve over the prior year. The November 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		
YTD Total	3,227,868	2,664,840	2,370,542	2,549,041	2,691,225	142,184 5.58%
Total Year	3,535,223	2,795,005	2,578,607	2,784,244	2,691,225	142,184 (3.34%)

* 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	(92.00%)
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	459,382	

* 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
FYTD	519,910	488,562	550,732	-	437,244	412,097	459,382

*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: 11/01/2025

End Date: 11/30/2025

Revenue Date	Prepaid Variable			Prepaid			AVI Exempt	Total
	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full		
11/01/2025	0	0	0	2314	1112	1091	29	4546
11/02/2025	0	0	0	1929	999	820	32	3780
11/03/2025	0	0	0	2271	1489	1660	57	5477
11/04/2025	0	0	0	2459	1591	1784	61	5895
11/05/2025	0	0	0	2580	1598	1845	70	6093
11/06/2025	0	0	0	2465	1632	1834	57	5988
11/07/2025	0	0	0	2726	1615	1765	60	6166
11/08/2025	0	0	0	2460	1242	1189	33	4924
11/09/2025	0	0	0	2089	1093	884	18	4084
11/10/2025	0	0	0	2301	1619	1709	55	5684
11/11/2025	0	0	0	2293	1599	1618	46	5556
11/12/2025	0	0	0	2293	1654	1879	75	5901
11/13/2025	0	0	0	2410	1670	1894	70	6044
11/14/2025	0	0	0	2554	1645	1858	51	6108
11/15/2025	0	0	0	2409	1292	1234	28	4963
11/16/2025	0	0	0	1896	1123	937	30	3986
11/17/2025	0	0	0	2187	1548	1782	57	5574
11/18/2025	0	0	0	2348	1694	1875	64	5981
11/19/2025	0	0	0	2429	1665	1920	58	6072
11/20/2025	0	0	0	2359	1753	1943	64	6119
11/21/2025	0	0	0	2442	1665	1909	51	6067
11/22/2025	0	0	0	2397	1308	1262	25	4992
11/23/2025	0	0	0	2096	1093	951	31	4171
11/24/2025	0	0	0	2486	1618	1703	40	5847
11/25/2025	0	0	0	2611	1686	1784	44	6125
11/26/2025	0	0	0	2548	1489	1694	43	5774
11/27/2025	0	0	0	1427	697	728	20	2872
11/28/2025	0	0	0	2168	1241	1299	29	4737
11/29/2025	0	0	0	2157	1134	1067	34	4392
11/30/2025	0	0	0	1786	1061	861	22	3730
Total:	0	0	0	68890	42625	44779	1354	157648

PERIODIC DAILY LANE TRAFFIC REPORT

Sanibel Island

Start Date: 11/01/2025

End Date: 11/30/2025

Date	Lane 1	Lane 2	Lane 3	Total
11/01/2025	2,951	3,328	552	6,831
11/02/2025	2,529	2,702	462	5,693
11/03/2025	3,271	3,906	666	7,843
11/04/2025	3,456	4,160	776	8,392
11/05/2025	3,564	4,377	824	8,765
11/06/2025	3,532	4,316	795	8,643
11/07/2025	3,638	4,436	898	8,972
11/08/2025	3,287	3,648	721	7,656
11/09/2025	2,724	3,000	519	6,243
11/10/2025	3,275	4,075	679	8,029
11/11/2025	3,244	3,926	740	7,910
11/12/2025	3,297	4,303	771	8,371
11/13/2025	3,431	4,370	900	8,701
11/14/2025	3,501	4,356	880	8,737
11/15/2025	3,136	3,666	679	7,481
11/16/2025	2,631	2,790	469	5,890
11/17/2025	3,175	3,911	732	7,818
11/18/2025	3,439	4,093	857	8,389
11/19/2025	3,287	4,265	847	8,399
11/20/2025	3,443	4,229	892	8,564
11/21/2025	3,493	4,357	913	8,763
11/22/2025	3,203	3,758	693	7,654
11/23/2025	2,758	3,102	544	6,404
11/24/2025	3,488	4,292	818	8,598
11/25/2025	3,655	4,468	903	9,026
11/26/2025	3,424	4,332	953	8,709
11/27/2025	2,029	2,122	295	4,446
11/28/2025	3,013	3,425	601	7,039
11/29/2025	3,036	3,245	572	6,853
11/30/2025	2,486	2,713	448	5,647
Total:	95,396	113,671	21,399	230,466