



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Finance Department

City Council Regular Meeting Date: June 2, 2026

To: City Council
From: Steve C. Chaipel, Deputy City Manager/CFO
Date: May 7, 2026

SUBJECT: Sanibel Causeway Traffic Counts – April 2026

As reported to the City by the Lee County Department of Transportation, April 2026 Sanibel Causeway inbound vehicles increased by 8.62% as compared to April 2025.

Traffic crossing the causeway continues to improve over the prior year. April 2026 traffic counts were the highest since 2022.

	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2026 vs 2025	
January	311,596	190,919	252,892	261,462	273,879	12,417	4.75%
February	317,584	207,699	260,436	257,419	277,773	20,354	7.91%
March	363,863	246,296	285,946	296,471	329,376	32,905	11.10%
April	332,323	226,212	259,576	269,069	292,255	23,186	8.62%
May	303,569	226,250	243,399	257,569	-		
June	279,042	212,373	214,950	236,290	-		
July	299,834	212,189	227,658	245,139	-		
August	257,717	210,811	207,418	215,005	-		
September	199,312	200,549	184,669	193,419	-		
October	-	223,326	187,618	228,916	-		
November	-	213,918	224,479	230,466	-		
December	130,165	208,065	235,203	250,109	-		
YTD Total	1,325,366	871,126	1,058,850	1,084,421	1,173,283	88,862	8.19%
Total Year	2,795,005	2,578,607	2,784,244	2,941,334	1,173,283	88,862	(60.11%)

* 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.

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	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	0.68%
December	270,520	307,355	130,165	208,065	235,203	250,109	8.52%
January	282,778	311,596	190,919	252,892	261,462	273,879	9.50%
February	293,554	317,584	207,699	260,436	257,419	277,773	1.42%
March	352,029	363,863	246,296	285,946	296,471	329,376	18.58%
April	330,664	332,323	226,212	259,576	269,069	292,255	(11.27%)
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	1,882,774	

* Table compares prior month's activity with current month's activity for current fiscal year

	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
October	246,035	269,353	-	223,326	187,618	228,916
November	242,527	281,379	-	213,918	224,479	230,466
December	270,520	307,355	130,165	208,065	235,203	250,109
January	282,778	311,596	190,919	252,892	261,462	273,879
February	293,554	317,584	207,699	260,436	257,419	277,773
March	352,029	363,863	246,296	285,946	296,471	329,376
April	330,664	332,323	226,212	259,576	269,069	292,255
FYTD	2,018,107	2,183,453	1,001,291	1,704,159	1,731,721	1,882,774

*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.

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Lee County Toll System
PERIODIC DAILY AVI TRAFFIC REPORT
Sanibel Island

Start Date: 04/01/2026

End Date: 04/30/2026

Revenue Date	Prepaid Variable			Prepaid			AVI Exempt	Total
	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full		
04/01/2026	0	0	0	3186	1869	1977	78	7110
04/02/2026	0	0	0	2866	1937	1964	71	6838
04/03/2026	0	0	0	3556	1857	1811	42	7266
04/04/2026	0	0	0	3732	1520	1337	36	6625
04/05/2026	0	0	0	2868	1178	926	42	5014
04/06/2026	0	0	0	2969	1725	1678	50	6422
04/07/2026	0	0	0	2428	1774	1915	57	6174
04/08/2026	0	0	0	2746	1897	1951	69	6663
04/09/2026	0	0	0	2846	1815	1975	71	6707
04/10/2026	0	0	0	3280	1827	1923	62	7092
04/11/2026	0	0	0	3595	1486	1313	44	6438
04/12/2026	0	0	0	3197	1258	1026	29	5510
04/13/2026	0	0	0	2614	1813	1853	60	6340
04/14/2026	0	0	0	2663	1791	1940	79	6473
04/15/2026	0	0	0	2783	1824	1964	68	6639
04/16/2026	0	0	0	2831	1811	1945	62	6649
04/17/2026	0	0	0	2843	1647	1335	43	5868
04/18/2026	0	0	0	3476	1384	1266	37	6163
04/19/2026	0	0	0	3005	1242	1023	43	5313
04/20/2026	0	0	0	2458	1629	1819	57	5963
04/21/2026	0	0	0	2628	1770	1928	57	6383
04/22/2026	0	0	0	2626	1751	1912	73	6362
04/23/2026	0	0	0	2543	1792	1920	67	6322
04/24/2026	0	0	0	2939	1679	1898	53	6569
04/25/2026	0	0	0	3369	1290	1215	31	5905
04/26/2026	0	0	0	2823	1158	946	30	4957
04/27/2026	0	0	0	2447	1638	1802	58	5945
04/28/2026	0	0	0	2524	1701	1930	63	6218
04/29/2026	0	0	0	2503	1682	1963	70	6218
04/30/2026	0	0	0	2477	1645	1945	84	6151
Total:	0	0	0	86821	49390	50400	1686	188297

PERIODIC DAILY LANE TRAFFIC REPORT

Sanibel Island

Start Date: 04/01/2026

End Date: 04/30/2026

Date	Lane 1	Lane 2	Lane 3	Total
04/01/2026	4,272	4,577	2,350	11,199
04/02/2026	4,256	4,618	1,656	10,530
04/03/2026	4,318	5,334	1,961	11,613
04/04/2026	4,517	5,338	1,726	11,581
04/05/2026	3,579	3,976	1,156	8,711
04/06/2026	4,018	4,671	1,619	10,308
04/07/2026	3,513	4,319	1,453	9,285
04/08/2026	3,874	4,623	1,582	10,079
04/09/2026	3,871	4,639	1,678	10,188
04/10/2026	4,119	4,992	1,831	10,942
04/11/2026	4,191	4,918	1,553	10,662
04/12/2026	3,507	4,114	1,290	8,911
04/13/2026	3,686	4,239	1,542	9,467
04/14/2026	3,783	4,111	1,553	9,447
04/15/2026	3,873	4,261	1,578	9,712
04/16/2026	3,865	4,367	1,502	9,734
04/17/2026	3,925	4,857	1,746	10,528
04/18/2026	4,072	4,774	1,488	10,334
04/19/2026	3,596	4,060	1,174	8,830
04/20/2026	3,256	4,184	1,431	8,871
04/21/2026	3,452	4,362	1,510	9,324
04/22/2026	3,383	4,362	1,532	9,277
04/23/2026	3,349	4,383	1,585	9,317
04/24/2026	3,717	4,588	1,620	9,925
04/25/2026	3,893	4,556	1,402	9,851
04/26/2026	3,283	3,764	1,176	8,223
04/27/2026	3,275	4,048	1,340	8,663
04/28/2026	3,418	4,191	1,338	8,947
04/29/2026	3,423	4,225	1,280	8,928
04/30/2026	3,306	4,093	1,469	8,868
Total:	112,590	133,544	46,121	292,255