



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

*Natural Resources
Department*

City Council Regular Meeting Date: February 3, 2026

To: City Council
From: Rachel Rainbolt, Conservation Officer
Holly Milbrandt, Natural Resources Director
Date: January 26, 2026

SUBJECT: Wildlife Crossing (Corridor) Signage Discussion

BACKGROUND: At the December 16, 2025, City Council meeting, the City Council directed staff to proceed with the design of wildlife-crossing signage for five approved locations.

- Sanibel Captiva Road (near Tarpon Bay Road 4-way stop)
- Sanibel Captiva Road (near Rabbit Road intersection)
- Sanibel Captiva Road (near Wulfert Road/Wildlife Drive access)
- Sanibel Captiva Road (Legion Curve)
- Tarpon Bay Road (near entrance to Bailey Tract)

WILDLIFE CROSSING SIGNAGE DESIGNS: Three complementary signage designs were selected to balance regulatory clarity, driver awareness, and Sanibel's unique wildlife context. All designs conform to MUTCD warning sign standards and reflect guidance from FDOT and FWC.

Key Implementation Notes for All Signs:

- Sign characteristics, such as size, color, shape, text, and reflectivity, will also be reviewed by Sanibel Police Department and Public Works prior to installation
- Mount signs at appropriate height (≥ 3 ft for ≥ 30 mph roads, ≥ 30 in for slower roads).
- Prioritize placement at WMR-verified hotspots.
- Regular maintenance and periodic evaluation are essential to maintain effectiveness.
- Public education campaigns during seasonal occurrences to complement signage.

Sign Design #1: Wildlife Corridor Sign

- **Purpose:** As documented in the Wildlife Mortality Report (WMR), a significant proportion of wildlife-vehicle incidents occur along Sanibel Captiva Road. This signage provides a general warning to motorists that they are entering a known wildlife corridor that intersects contiguous conservation lands owned or managed by the City of Sanibel, the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge, and the Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation. The

Sanibel is and shall remain a barrier island sanctuary

horizontal rectangular format reinforces the corridor-wide nature of wildlife movement and is intended for use in areas with frequent crossings by multiple species. This design promotes sustained driver awareness beyond a single, localized crossing point.

- **Design Features:**

- Horizontal rectangle-shaped MUTCD sign.
- Black silhouettes of multiple species (e.g., owl, turtle, raccoon bobcat) on fluorescent yellow-green background.
- Retroreflective material for nighttime visibility.
- Size: 60"x30" or 48"x30"

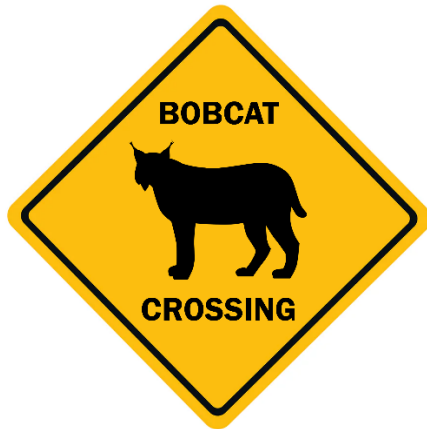


- **Location:**

- Sanibel Captiva Road (near Tarpon Bay Road 4-way stop – facing westbound travel lane)
- Sanibel Captiva Road (near Rabbit Road intersection – facing both eastbound and westbound travel lanes)
- Sanibel Captiva Road (near Wulfert Road/Wildlife Drive access – facing eastbound travel lane)

Sign Design #2 and #3 Species-specific Crossing Sign

- **Purpose:** Species-specific wildlife crossing signs are intended to increase driver awareness in areas where WMR document roadway use by native species of conservation concern or species not routinely observed by motorists. Bobcat signage addresses movement associated with upland and edge habitats and highlights the presence of an elusive terrestrial species, while alligator signage addresses predictable crossings near wetlands and aquatic corridors where encounters may be infrequent but present heightened public safety considerations.
- **Design Features:**
 - Standard diamond-shaped MUTCD sign.
 - Placement at verified WMR/GIS hotspot locations.
 - Retroreflective material for nighttime visibility.
 - Size: 24"x24" for Tarpon Bay Road, 30"x30" for Sanibel Captiva Road.



- **Location:**

- Sanibel Captiva Road (Legion Curve) – Bobcat (facing both eastbound and westbound travel lanes)
- Tarpon Bay Road (near entrance to Bailey Tract) – Alligator (facing both northbound and southbound travel lanes)

FUNDING SOURCE: Approximate cost for sign fabrication and mounting posts is \$1,500. Funding is available in the Natural Resources FY26 adopted budget.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

City Council is requested to approve the wildlife-crossing sign designs and installation at the previously approved locations:

- Sanibel Captiva Road (near Tarpon Bay Road 4-way stop)
- Sanibel Captiva Road (near Rabbit Road intersection)
- Sanibel Captiva Road (near Wulfert Road/Wildlife Drive access)
- Sanibel Captiva Road (Legion Curve)
- Tarpon Bay Road (near entrance to Bailey Tract)