



AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Finance Department

City Council Regular Meeting Date: March 3, 2026

To: City Council
From: Steve C. Chaipel, Deputy City Manager/CFO
Date: February 24, 2026

SUBJECT: Sanibel Causeway Traffic Counts – January 2026

As reported to the City by the Lee County Department of Transportation, January 2026 Sanibel Causeway inbound vehicles increased by 4.75% as compared to January 2025.

Traffic crossing the causeway continues to improve over the prior year. January 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	-		
March	363,863	246,296	285,946	296,471	-		
April	332,323	226,212	259,576	269,069	-		
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	311,596	190,919	252,892	261,462	273,879	12,417	4.75%
Total Year	2,795,005	2,578,607	2,784,244	2,941,334	273,879	12,417	(90.69%)

* 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		
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	983,370	

* 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
FYTD	1,041,860	1,169,683	321,084	898,201	908,762	983,370

*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: 01/01/2026

End Date: 01/31/2026

Revenue Date	Prepaid Variable			Prepaid			AVI Exempt	Total
	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full		
01/01/2026	0	0	0	2279	923	928	27	4157
01/02/2026	0	0	0	2770	1462	1528	16	5776
01/03/2026	0	0	0	2679	1398	1182	26	5285
01/04/2026	0	0	0	2237	1231	922	21	4411
01/05/2026	0	0	0	2468	1723	1700	53	5944
01/06/2026	0	0	0	2493	1842	1932	65	6332
01/07/2026	0	0	0	2535	1805	1960	58	6358
01/08/2026	0	0	0	2730	1833	1938	66	6567
01/09/2026	0	0	0	2762	1924	1903	56	6645
01/10/2026	0	0	0	2892	1416	1218	40	5566
01/11/2026	0	0	0	2358	1188	918	34	4498
01/12/2026	0	0	0	2445	1704	1775	47	5971
01/13/2026	0	0	0	2571	1801	1889	62	6323
01/14/2026	0	0	0	2525	1935	1947	77	6484
01/15/2026	0	0	0	2383	1865	1939	57	6244
01/16/2026	0	0	0	2631	1833	1871	51	6386
01/17/2026	0	0	0	2632	1414	1201	46	5293
01/18/2026	0	0	0	2159	1196	894	35	4284
01/19/2026	0	0	0	2523	1677	1562	30	5792
01/20/2026	0	0	0	2638	1881	1925	60	6504
01/21/2026	0	0	0	2826	1933	1910	70	6739
01/22/2026	0	0	0	2806	1921	1980	70	6777
01/23/2026	0	0	0	3274	1931	1926	56	7187
01/24/2026	0	0	0	3277	1535	1208	36	6056
01/25/2026	0	0	0	2867	1239	986	25	5117
01/26/2026	0	0	0	2610	1711	1827	56	6204
01/27/2026	0	0	0	2518	1934	1911	65	6428
01/28/2026	0	0	0	2585	1918	1992	71	6566
01/29/2026	0	0	0	2759	1922	1930	68	6679
01/30/2026	0	0	0	3084	1869	1916	62	6931
01/31/2026	0	0	0	1985	1455	1193	29	4662
Total:	0	0	0	81301	51419	49911	1535	184166

PERIODIC DAILY LANE TRAFFIC REPORT

Sanibel Island

Start Date: 01/01/2026

End Date: 01/31/2026

Date	Lane 1	Lane 2	Lane 3	Total
01/01/2026	3,277	3,262	634	7,173
01/02/2026	3,775	4,444	1,034	9,253
01/03/2026	3,671	4,044	914	8,629
01/04/2026	2,939	3,340	703	6,982
01/05/2026	3,473	4,299	927	8,699
01/06/2026	3,635	4,396	1,016	9,047
01/07/2026	3,626	4,416	1,046	9,088
01/08/2026	3,780	4,591	1,088	9,459
01/09/2026	3,736	4,691	1,099	9,526
01/10/2026	3,438	4,158	963	8,559
01/11/2026	2,980	3,353	674	7,007
01/12/2026	3,684	3,812	1,147	8,643
01/13/2026	3,564	4,390	1,066	9,020
01/14/2026	3,547	4,504	1,093	9,144
01/15/2026	3,504	4,317	951	8,772
01/16/2026	3,820	4,664	785	9,269
01/17/2026	3,607	4,179	679	8,465
01/18/2026	2,925	3,169	568	6,662
01/19/2026	3,617	4,223	913	8,753
01/20/2026	3,830	4,506	980	9,316
01/21/2026	3,920	4,690	1,154	9,764
01/22/2026	3,911	5,007	856	9,774
01/23/2026	4,140	5,150	1,245	10,535
01/24/2026	3,985	4,530	1,052	9,567
01/25/2026	3,519	3,800	812	8,131
01/26/2026	3,710	4,405	920	9,035
01/27/2026	3,793	4,424	1,029	9,246
01/28/2026	3,830	4,557	1,005	9,392
01/29/2026	3,982	4,630	1,172	9,784
01/30/2026	3,943	4,925	1,209	10,077
01/31/2026	3,140	3,338	630	7,108
Total:	112,301	132,214	29,364	273,879