



MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 13, 2021
TO: Sanibel City Council
VIA: Judie A. Zimomra, City Manager
FROM: Steven C. Chaipel, Finance Director
SUBJECT: Sanibel Causeway Traffic Counts – July 2021

Please find attached the July 2021 Sanibel Causeway inbound vehicle counts. The total inbound vehicle count in July 2021 (307,599) increased by 20.62% compared to July 2020 (255,010). The highest recorded traffic for July is experienced in 2021 when 307,599 vehicles crossed during the month.

The coronavirus pandemic significantly affected island traffic in 2020. Calendar year to date traffic is 24.69% higher in 2021 than the same period as last year. July 2021 traffic is the historic high for July traffic as noted above.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2021 vs 2020	
January	301,565	305,372	318,315	282,778	(35,537)	(11.16%)
February	313,409	310,367	321,085	293,554	(27,531)	(8.57%)
March	355,410	355,759	265,546	352,029	86,483	32.57%
April	311,012	314,979	123,130	330,664	207,534	168.55%
May	262,653	283,526	221,665	323,157	101,492	45.79%
June	262,365	256,840	252,000	300,788	48,788	19.36%
July	266,178	265,024	255,010	307,599	52,589	20.62%
August	206,903	234,099	233,491			
September	184,237	207,956	218,338			
October	239,426	253,144	246,035			
November	261,399	266,766	242,527			
December	275,964	284,979	270,520			
YTD Total	2,072,592	2,091,867	1,756,751	2,190,569	433,818	24.69%
Total Year	3,240,521	3,338,811	2,967,662	2,190,569		

For purposes of revenue projection, it is also useful to compare vehicle counts presented on the City's fiscal year (which runs October to September) to identify issues that affect the forecast trends. The current fiscal year count of 307,599 vehicles (July) is higher than the previous fiscal year July total of 255,010 due to the previously mentioned pandemic.

The charts on the next page compare the current year with the last five fiscal years for both fiscal year to date and total year to date counts.

Total fiscal year and fiscal year to date causeway counts:

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
October	255,097	257,644	257,307	239,426	253,144	246,035
November	268,749	274,382	274,306	261,399	266,766	242,527
December	288,846	286,146	286,545	275,964	284,979	270,520
January	299,519	305,957	301,565	305,372	318,315	282,778
February	309,434	307,537	313,409	310,367	321,085	293,554
March	356,633	353,755	355,410	355,759	265,546	352,029
April	311,725	317,735	311,012	314,979	123,130	330,664
May	278,614	283,150	262,653	283,526	221,665	323,157
June	255,834	252,600	262,365	256,840	252,000	300,788
July	269,576	279,305	266,178	265,024	255,010	307,599
August	238,931	245,991	206,903	234,099	233,491	
September	220,810	129,701	184,237	207,956	218,338	
Total FY	3,353,768	3,293,903	3,281,890	3,310,711	3,013,469	2,949,651

	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
October	255,097	257,644	257,307	239,426	253,144	246,035
November	268,749	274,382	274,306	261,399	266,766	242,527
December	288,846	286,146	286,545	275,964	284,979	270,520
January	299,519	305,957	301,565	305,372	318,315	282,778
February	309,434	307,537	313,409	310,367	321,085	293,554
March	356,633	353,755	355,410	355,759	265,546	352,029
April	311,725	317,735	311,012	314,979	123,130	330,664
May	278,614	283,150	262,653	283,526	221,665	323,157
June	255,834	252,600	262,365	256,840	252,000	300,788
July	269,576	279,305	266,178	265,024	255,010	307,599
FYTD	2,894,027	2,918,211	2,890,750	2,868,656	2,561,640	2,949,651

¹ Easter 2017 was on April 16, 2017 and Easter 2018 was on April 1, 2018. In 2019, Easter falls on April 21, 2019.

² Hurricane Irma landed on Sanibel September 10, 2017. Due to Hurricane Irma, tolls suspended September 7, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. until September 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Traffic counts were not taken while tolls were suspended

³ On July 9, 2018, Governor Scott declared a state of emergency for Lee County and several other counties due to the environmental threat posed by increasing toxic algae blooms. On July 27, 2018 Lee County declared a state of emergency in response to the toxic bloom. On August 7, 2018, the City of Sanibel declared a local state of emergency in response to the toxic bloom

⁴ 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 April 2021.

TOTAL VEHICLES THROUGH SANIBEL CAUSEWAY BY MONTH

Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	TOTAL
1975	71,497	77,820	92,725	70,355	60,632	59,139	62,322	62,201	45,480	53,450	59,084	78,668	795,348
1976	84,299	96,545	111,476	89,794	71,553	70,031	75,252	71,522	58,676	62,895	71,382	89,853	953,278
1977	94,447	108,599	129,246	103,187	82,152	77,932	83,723	79,071	65,662	75,735	85,564	97,797	1,083,115
1978	104,193	115,285	145,573	108,652	95,454	90,836	99,998	98,175	80,288	89,577	99,901	107,774	1,235,706
1979	120,611	133,867	161,086	132,023	106,364	97,850	99,924	101,007	78,769	98,014	108,945	118,275	1,356,735
1980	132,655	148,630	171,790	144,903	123,261	117,852	124,672	120,338	98,302	115,265	119,052	136,561	1,553,281
1981	141,531	158,419	187,929	159,416	139,422	126,940	134,746	127,094	111,486	123,591	131,986	142,354	1,684,914
1982	151,598	172,210	205,406	171,080	142,796	123,004	133,581	125,851	108,680	123,777	138,525	150,133	1,746,641
1983	165,687	175,371	206,486	175,982	155,029	137,686	140,377	138,763	123,577	145,603	155,938	167,072	1,887,571
1984	177,772	202,219	238,398	198,917	172,520	155,093	157,527	161,249	136,934	161,877	172,336	185,437	2,120,279
1985	195,656	214,378	260,947	218,871	189,217	166,656	170,963	171,472	144,877	171,828	184,240	201,856	2,290,961
1986	222,671	237,844	277,318	233,768	205,791	184,725	192,522	190,157	165,626	189,818	199,923	218,970	2,519,133
1987	237,853	253,132	292,300	256,283	228,039	202,271	212,669	198,889	179,830	203,003	218,186	227,822	2,710,277
1988	240,333	263,684	298,358	261,259	227,835	211,278	219,390	202,843	185,991	211,476	225,141	232,510	2,780,098
1989	262,812	275,217	319,506	265,334	240,919	217,282	223,224	217,561	194,282	224,655	234,250	226,305	2,901,347
1990	263,259	283,752	330,219	286,758	247,651	226,605	227,423	228,836	196,113	229,494	248,957	251,114	3,020,181
1991	284,739	287,309	327,890	285,819	249,680	220,757	225,596	223,316	191,537	225,082	238,544	253,706	3,013,975
1992	280,819	297,992	325,286	282,992	254,534	220,681	240,321	221,543	208,241	241,442	250,092	264,262	3,088,205
1993	290,670	296,725	337,653	302,459	261,192	233,296	246,572	233,370	212,183	239,421	259,123	270,798	3,183,462
1994	293,531	300,002	357,362	308,596	264,426	228,980	240,589	234,362	212,574	246,573	265,715	272,408	3,225,118
1995	299,559	308,171	348,594	307,534	268,757	230,841	243,361	199,379	209,803	241,521	270,379	271,923	3,199,822
1996	304,407	326,104	347,728	311,173	271,955	238,613	250,166	241,345	212,542	246,955	264,623	268,229	3,283,840
1997	306,316	310,880	359,236	305,966	277,043	243,687	253,515	244,433	208,686	253,406	264,595	269,812	3,297,575
1998	307,702	312,839	354,579	323,198	278,057	244,061	257,095	244,650	194,238	261,953	276,278	281,724	3,336,374
1999	309,901	321,124	364,627	321,078	277,797	245,719	266,201	245,368	220,735	248,747	282,998	280,212	3,384,507
2000	314,885	334,888	362,049	318,087	284,199	256,539	263,139	244,603	224,860	261,497	284,445	284,578	3,433,769
2001	322,154	333,949	373,881	330,856	289,756	262,558	265,127	257,564	209,826	253,214	280,433	281,029	3,460,347
2002	318,784	324,030	372,848	322,133	283,490	249,509	266,951	254,452	218,476	262,318	279,067	278,258	3,430,316
2003	292,127	299,200	334,043	298,465	269,750	240,791	261,964	243,152	208,777	261,425	274,091	273,962	3,257,747
2004	304,643	318,535	356,220	316,083	275,031	253,718	270,112	144,277	169,391	235,888	231,622	236,781	3,112,301
2005	267,889	273,111	319,514	273,327	243,571	220,531	232,041	212,698	183,277	183,538	239,412	241,946	2,890,855
2006	268,038	266,706	322,245	276,324	240,382	219,615	218,316	196,253	180,467	213,190	236,941	237,016	2,875,493
2007	271,923	267,015	317,457	272,220	240,125	224,222	227,500	215,347	184,663	217,740	238,781	241,586	2,918,579
2008	273,912	291,589	325,814	280,186	245,084	216,491	226,915	201,964	174,041	214,334	229,541	244,711	2,924,582
2009	273,234	280,538	323,380	285,150	235,716	218,375	231,610	205,751	180,175	217,507	232,254	243,172	2,926,862
2010	261,120	270,500	325,113	283,061	241,916	217,699	224,456	200,719	180,493	213,581	232,349	235,598	2,886,605
2011	259,151	280,964	334,523	289,364	240,349	222,098	234,623	208,694	183,962	213,083	240,131	246,690	2,953,632
2012	271,691	292,491	340,172	282,961	245,846	221,719	240,786	209,467	189,037	224,850	242,704	247,159	3,008,883
2013	285,060	287,624	334,060	288,245	257,262	233,178	248,063	226,855	191,824	233,944	251,694	263,481	3,101,290
2014	290,447	299,537	344,119	303,528	266,028	240,195	256,779	234,804	197,119	245,090	254,257	277,597	3,209,500
2015	307,302	300,449	355,695	313,112	275,167	254,435	264,087	238,868	212,624	255,097	268,749	288,846	3,334,431
2016	299,519	309,434	356,633	311,725	278,614	255,834	269,576	238,931	220,810	257,644	274,382	286,146	3,359,248
2017	305,957	307,537	353,755	317,735	283,150	252,600	279,305	245,991	129,701	257,307	274,306	286,545	3,293,889
2018	301,565	313,409	355,410	311,012	262,653	262,365	266,178	206,903	184,237	239,426	261,399	275,964	3,240,521
2019	305,372	310,367	355,759	314,979	283,526	256,840	265,024	234,099	207,956	253,144	266,766	284,979	3,338,811
2020	318,315	321,085	265,546	123,130	221,665	252,000	255,010	233,491	218,338	246,035	242,527	270,520	2,967,662
2021	282,778	293,554	352,029	330,664	323,157	300,788	307,599						2,190,569

07/18, 08/18, 09/18 Unprecedented red tide fish kill was experienced

Easter 2016 was on March 27, 2016 and Easter 2017 was on April 16, 2017. Easter 2018 was on April 1, 2018

Hurricane Irma landed on Sanibel September 10, 2017. Due to Hurricane Irma, tolls suspended September 7, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. until September 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Traffic counts were not taken while tolls were suspended.

February 2016 included 29 days

January 2016 total rainfall recorded at Tarpon Bay weir 12.5 inches. January 2017 total rainfall recorded at Tarpon Bay weir 0.23 inch.

08/27/12 Toll Facility closed due to Tropical Storm Isaac

08/18/08-08/19/08 Toll Facility closed due to Tropical Storm Fay

10/23/05-10/25/05 Toll Facility closed due to Hurricane Wilma

09/01-09/05/04 - Causeway closed to non-residents & non-business owners

08/19-08/31/04 - Causeway closed to non-residents & non-business owners

08/12/04-08/18/04 - Toll Facility closed due to Hurricane Charley

01/20/03 - Causeway shut down for emergency repairs to Span "B"

09/24/98-09/27/98 - Toll Facility closed due to Hurricane Georges

11/96-12/96 - Estimated; new toll equipment installed

08/95 - Computer "crashed" - estimated total

Lee County Toll System
PERIODIC DAILY AVI TRAFFIC REPORT
Sanibel Island

Start Date: 07/01/2021

End Date: 07/31/2021

Revenue Date	Prepaid Variable			Prepaid			AVI Exempt	Total
	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full	AVI	AVI Red	AVI Full		
07/01/2021	0	0	0	2074	1838	2180	62	6154
07/02/2021	0	0	0	2689	1879	2126	48	6742
07/03/2021	0	0	0	3663	1462	1554	46	6725
07/04/2021	0	0	0	2769	1138	1121	35	5063
07/05/2021	0	0	0	1737	1353	1584	37	4711
07/06/2021	0	0	0	734	828	1325	69	2956
07/07/2021	0	0	0	1469	1315	1740	67	4591
07/08/2021	0	0	0	2143	1899	2163	55	6260
07/09/2021	0	0	0	2431	1835	2058	46	6370
07/10/2021	0	0	0	2920	1449	1524	35	5928
07/11/2021	0	0	0	2068	1088	1063	29	4248
07/12/2021	0	0	0	1832	1668	1959	66	5525
07/13/2021	0	0	0	1829	1660	2010	66	5565
07/14/2021	0	0	0	1875	1687	2032	57	5651
07/15/2021	0	0	0	2193	1820	2119	49	6181
07/16/2021	0	0	0	2557	1728	2106	48	6439
07/17/2021	0	0	0	3024	1372	1517	43	5956
07/18/2021	0	0	0	2244	1118	1114	35	4511
07/19/2021	0	0	0	1975	1532	2025	66	5598
07/20/2021	0	0	0	1951	1712	2140	62	5865
07/21/2021	0	0	0	2066	1713	2130	52	5961
07/22/2021	0	0	0	2221	1772	2142	59	6194
07/23/2021	0	0	0	2515	1775	2112	35	6437
07/24/2021	0	0	0	2912	1324	1538	35	5809
07/25/2021	0	0	0	2420	1086	1125	33	4664
07/26/2021	0	0	0	1906	1617	1985	51	5559
07/27/2021	0	0	0	1828	1641	2126	54	5649
07/28/2021	0	0	0	1947	1653	2046	53	5699
07/29/2021	0	0	0	2046	1749	2103	56	5954
07/30/2021	0	0	0	2519	1760	2097	49	6425
07/31/2021	0	0	0	3021	1421	1542	34	6018
Total:	0	0	0	69578	47892	56406	1532	175408

PERIODIC DAILY LANE TRAFFIC REPORT

Sanibel Island

Start Date: 07/01/2021

End Date: 07/31/2021

Date	Lane 1	Lane 2	Lane 3	Total
07/01/2021	2,790	3,245	4,036	10,071
07/02/2021	3,151	3,623	4,251	11,025
07/03/2021	4,050	4,657	4,158	12,865
07/04/2021	2,720	3,962	3,262	9,944
07/05/2021	2,366	2,735	3,102	8,203
07/06/2021	1,079	1,297	1,999	4,375
07/07/2021	2,146	2,468	3,000	7,614
07/08/2021	3,170	4,984	2,448	10,602
07/09/2021	3,666	7,224	0	10,890
07/10/2021	4,353	7,248	0	11,601
07/11/2021	3,331	5,253	0	8,584
07/12/2021	3,422	6,163	0	9,585
07/13/2021	3,474	6,100	0	9,574
07/14/2021	3,351	4,249	1,906	9,506
07/15/2021	3,425	3,817	3,419	10,661
07/16/2021	3,285	3,737	3,785	10,807
07/17/2021	3,689	4,099	3,500	11,288
07/18/2021	2,781	3,149	2,743	8,673
07/19/2021	2,887	3,208	3,452	9,547
07/20/2021	2,873	3,288	3,634	9,795
07/21/2021	2,906	3,277	3,761	9,944
07/22/2021	2,993	3,608	3,880	10,481
07/23/2021	3,171	3,699	4,032	10,902
07/24/2021	3,673	4,024	3,588	11,285
07/25/2021	2,971	3,385	2,852	9,208
07/26/2021	2,770	3,057	3,553	9,380
07/27/2021	2,752	3,096	3,601	9,449
07/28/2021	2,827	3,145	3,626	9,598
07/29/2021	2,971	3,324	3,734	10,029
07/30/2021	3,121	3,523	3,970	10,614
07/31/2021	4,096	3,311	4,092	11,499
Total:	96,260	121,955	89,384	307,599