



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 6, 2018

TO: Sanibel City Council

FROM: Judie Zimomra, City Manager

SUBJECT: Causeway Counts – December 2017, End of Year Report

Please find attached the December 2017 Sanibel Causeway vehicular counts. **December 2017 total vehicles increased by 399 to 286,545 (0.13%) as compared to December 2016.** The highest recorded traffic for December was experienced in 2015 when 288,846 vehicles crossed during the course of the month.

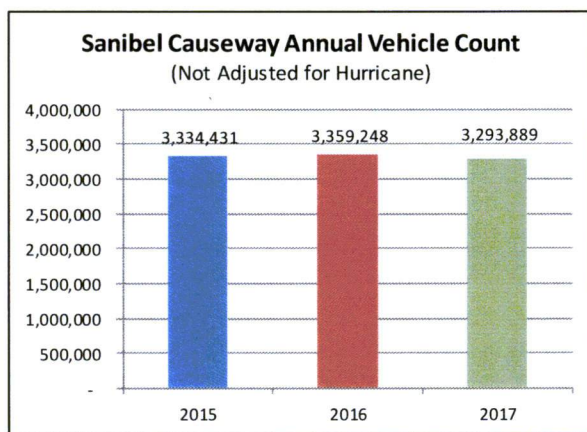
END OF YEAR 2017

The total number of vehicles crossing the Causeway in 2017 was 3.293 million. This number remains lower than the peak year of 2001 of 3.46 million vehicles. Prior to Hurricane Irma, July 2017 was a recorded all-time high for the month of July, with 279,305 and August 2017 was a 15-year high for that month with a count of 245,991 vehicles.

The total number of vehicles crossing the Sanibel Causeway all twelve months of calendar year 2017 **decreased to 3,293,889 (-1.98%)** compared to the same time period for calendar year 2016 of 3,359,248.

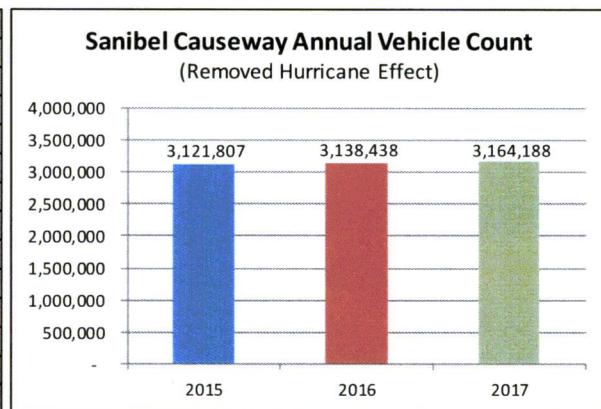
On September 10, 2017, Hurricane Irma impacted Sanibel Island. The total number of vehicles crossing the Sanibel Causeway in September 2017 decreased 91,109 to 129,701 (-41.26%) as compared to September 2016. Due to Hurricane Irma, tolls suspended September 7, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. until September 19, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. Traffic counts were not taken while tolls were suspended.

	2015	2016	2017	2017 vs 2016	
January	307,302	299,519	305,957	6,438	2.10%
February	300,449	309,434	307,537	(1,897)	(0.62%)
March	355,695	356,633	353,755	(2,878)	(0.81%)
April	313,112	311,725	317,735	6,010	1.89%
May	275,167	278,614	283,150	4,536	1.60%
June	254,435	255,834	252,600	(3,234)	(1.28%)
July	264,087	269,576	279,305	9,729	3.48%
August	238,868	238,931	245,991	7,060	2.87%
September	212,624	220,810	129,701	(91,109)	(70.25%)
October	255,097	257,644	257,307	(337)	(0.13%)
November	268,749	274,382	274,306	(76)	(0.03%)
December	288,846	286,146	286,545	399	0.14%
TOTAL	3,334,431	3,359,248	3,293,889	(65,359)	(1.98%)
CHANGE	3.89%	0.74%	(1.98%)		



The following table negates the effect of Hurricane Irma by removing September traffic counts each year. Based on this analysis, traffic counts increased 25,750 or 0.81% in 2017.

	2015	2016	2017	2017 vs 2016	
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March	355,695	356,633	353,755	(2,878)	(0.81%)
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October	255,097	257,644	257,307	(337)	(0.13%)
November	268,749	274,382	274,306	(76)	(0.03%)
December	288,846	286,146	286,545	399	0.14%
TOTAL	3,121,807	3,138,438	3,164,188	25,750	0.81%
CHANGE	3.63%	0.53%	0.81%		



¹ January 2016 total rainfall recorded at Tarpon Bay weir 12.5 inches. January 2017 total rainfall recorded at Tarpon Bay weir 0.23 inch.

² The total Causeway vehicle count for the 29 day-long February 2016 (309,434) is 2.9% greater than the 28 day- long February 2015 (300,449). However, based upon these UNAUDITED numbers the Average Vehicle per Day count has decreased by .006% between February 2015, (10,733) to February 2016, (10,670).

³ Easter 2016 was on March 27, 2016 and Easter 2017 was on April 16, 2017.

⁴ 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.

JAZ/sjt

Xc: Executive Staff
Ric Base, President, Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce
Tamara Pigott, Director, Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau
Matt Scott, Chief, Sanibel Fire Department
Planning Commission
Traffic Communications Strategy Workgroup