

Sanibel Causeway

Sanibel's Future Responsibility

Despite the fact that Lee County owns and maintains the Sanibel Causeway, it is important that Sanibel take an active role in monitoring the operations. This monitoring should include, but not be limited to accounting, repairs and maintenance, and inspections. The causeway represents the only vehicular passage on and off the island; therefore, it is critical for Sanibel to take a partnership role with the county to ensure it's appropriately maintained.

Who should be responsible for monitoring the causeway?

OPTIONS:

1. Member of City Council
2. Council appointed committee
3. Staff
4. Professional consultant

These options are not mutually exclusive. Probably a combination of any or all of these options should be considered. It is important that a monitoring mechanism is put in place that extends beyond lifespan of the current council and staff since the causeway will be in existence for decades and will require the same element of scrutiny by future generations.

The County hires consultants to report on different aspects of the causeway. The City needs to take an active role in reviewing and understanding report findings. Ideally, the City can play a role in the selection of the consultants.

1. Causeway engineering and maintenance inspections: Per our interlocal agreement, the county is to hire an independent engineering firm to inspect the causeway on a biennial basis. The City should at the very least, be aware of the independent engineering firm selection process. Ideally the city should be involved with the selection process, review the independent reports, and request a presentation from the engineering firm on their findings.
2. Crack Monitoring inspection – scheduled to occur in July 2013. Findings could dictate repair recommendations and future, more frequent inspections to monitor the cracks.
3. Does the county have recourse (legal or under warranty) regarding the possible crack repairs.
4. Semi-annual and annual Traffic and Revenue Report for Lee County toll facilities
5. Updated Exhibit B – which provides a summary of excess funds used to calculate Sanibel's revenue share. The City should understand the detail that makes up each element in this schedule. This report should be updated by the county on a semi-annual basis.

6. Review all inflows/outflows of the R&R fund
7. Review excess revenue worksheets prepared by the county semi-annually.
8. Review how the county is spending its share of excess toll funds (is there a sinking fund?)
9. Causeway counts