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**Transportation tax effort takes a new bounce**

Dick Pettys reports that the effort to pass a transportation tax has taken an unexpected bounce as lawmakers struggle in the closing days of the session to reach agreement on how - if at all - to produce the extra dollars needed to manage existing traffic and prepare for unstoppable future growth. Senate Transportation Chairman Jeff Mullis called it “T-SPLOST on a diet” when he offered it as a counter-proposal during a House-Senate conference committee on Monday. House negotiators didn’t seem to warm to the proposal but said they would take it under advisement.