Below are our answers to the questions you provided for the RFP:

1. The impetus to the need for this at this time is that the Regional Transit Advisory Panel felt it was time to reexamine the area needs.
2. The RTAP and LRGVDC were very pleased with the plan.
3. Coordination efforts have been minimal. The RTAP needs a better plan that established and identifies the area needs that will assist in motivating the RTAP to great coordinated efforts.
4. Since this is an RFP process we can no discuss budgets until a firm is selected.
5. August 31, 2011 is the completion date, with the possibility of a 1-2 month extensions, if necessary.
6. 2007 and this is the update
7. Pilot projects should be recommended as needed from the consultant based on their findings. The steering committee has identified several preliminary pilot plans from the last Regional Plan [which are in the strategic plan], however, the committee does not wish to limit itself.
8. The committee would like to see a thorough series of both public outreach meetings and focus groups that would encompass the three counties [Hidalgo, Cameron, Willacy] of which has both urban and rural communities. The public hearings would be in bilingual, while the focus groups also bilingual with the potential [depending on the geographic site of focus group] to be Spanish only.
9. Yes, March 22nd is the confirmed date if multiple firms are chosen to present to the full committee. If consensus for one firm takes place, the negotiation portion will begin with the selected firm.