

Wheels: Fritz via e-mail writes that his 1989 Chevrolet Astro van will often stall when slowing to a stop. This only happens when he has driven the vehicle for about 20 miles. He was told this could be the torque converter clutch (TCC). Fritz wants to know how the TCC is activated and does this mean he needs a new computer?

Halderman: The TCC is activated by the computer based on many sensors. It could be sticking in the applied position causing the van to stall after you drive it. This fault is a common pattern failure for this transmission and a new computer is not necessary. Try unplugging the connector on the driver's side (three wire connector) to see if this solves the problem. If it does, have the TCC solenoid replaced. To prevent possible transmission problems, do not drive with the connector disconnected for very long. Just test drive the van to check if the problem is solved and do not tow anything or drive in hilly areas with the connector disconnected because it could cause the transmission to overheat. If the problem still exists with the connector unplugged, then the problem is due to a fault inside the transmission itself. Consult a transmission expert for repairs. A common cause could be a fault in the valve body. This assembly can be replaced without having to remove the transmission from the vehicle.

