

Wheels: Trichy writes, “I have a problem with my 1990 Oldsmobile Cutlass Ciera with a V-6 3.3 liter engine and automatic transmission. During the onset of summer, after about 30 minutes in stop and go traffic the engine stalls after I apply the brakes. (Luckily, so far this problem happens while stopping for the traffic lights.) I can switch on the engine but as soon as I shift to drive with my foot on the brake pedal, the engine stalls. However, after a break of 15 minutes, it is ready to go for 20 miles. The problem was diagnosed as a leak in the vacuum line by a reputed shop and repaired. However, the problem continues to exist. The temperature warning light works well but does not glow with this problem. Can you please provide any insight into the problem?”

Halderman: Your problem is very common and easy to repair. The torque converter clutch solenoid is sticking in the applied position when it gets hot. Any shop or dealer should be able to replace this part (called a TCC solenoid) easily and for a reasonable cost because only the pan of the transmission has to be removed to gain access. The reason the engine stalls is that the TCC is being kept applied and this is similar to having a manual transmission where the driver fails to depress the clutch pedal when slowing to a stop. The driven wheels are mechanically linked to the engine so when the wheels stop, the engine also stops.

