

Wheels: Dave writes, "I own a 1998 Chevy Metro with approximately 30,000 miles on it. I bought the car used at 23,000 miles. The car has a 4-cylinder engine and a standard 5-speed transmission. I am having a problem with the shifting when the outside temperature is 70 degrees or higher. The shifting becomes extremely hard after the engine warms up. As long as the temperature is below 70 degrees, the transmission shifts fine. The transmission was replaced, as was the clutch. The car still shifted very stiff above 70 degrees. I would like to get it fixed, but I am very concerned about having it fixed unless I have a good idea of the cause of the problem. I would really appreciate any information or advice you can give me."

Halderman: I was able to find your vehicle in service information from General Motors and they do show a pilot bearing problem. Here is what I think is happening. As the engine gets warm, the pilot bearing seizes the input shaft and keeps it rotating and transmitting engine power as if the clutch has not been depressed even though you have depressed the clutch. I am sure that if this small part is replaced your transmission will shift like new at all temperatures. I think you should go back to the dealer who did the replacement and tell them that the original concern was not corrected. Most dealers that I know will try to fix your problem.

