

Wheels: Dave writes, “We drive a 2001 Chevy Impala that we love to drive, except for the fact that the front end makes a lot of clunking sounds. The sounds come from down fairly low and appear to be a few feet in front of the dash. They appear to be the worst when we’re doing a hard deceleration, going around a curve or going over bumps, or all of the above.

A friend of the family, who knows cars much better than I do, told us that these noises are probably coming from the universal joints in the steering, and that there may not be anything we can do about them. Another weird feature is that the noises will be bad for weeks or months, but there are also short periods of time during which we don’t hear them at all. I am an engineer, and driving a fairly new car that makes noises like this is driving me nuts. Please advise as to what you think is causing the problem and what can be done about it.”

Halderman: Your friend is correct. There is a technical service bulletin (TSB) released by General Motors Corporation that covers your exact concern. The repair is to remove the intermediate steering shaft and lubricate the shaft using the lubricant supplied in the kit designed for this problem. See your local Chevrolet dealer about TSB #01-02-32-001C.

