

**Wheels:** Gary of Dayton writes by e-mail: “I have had some issues with the transfer case not going into or out of four-wheel high. I also hear a noise that disturbs me. I hear what could be a noisy wheel bearing and I never had any wheel bearings replaced on my Avalanche. I had them checked out by several places and all of them told me they were fine. The wheels rotated smoothly and showed no wobble. One place did say that the front left wheel bearing was possibly a little noisier than the others but was tight and did not need replaced. I am leaving for another trip to Florida soon. Do you think I am okay to drive the truck down and back without really getting into this noise and trying to resolve it before we go?”

**Halderman:** Noises are very difficult to trace. This is because it can be transmitted from one end of the vehicle to the other through the body, frame or drive train components. I have found a problem at the rear of the vehicle, for example, that was heard to be located at the front of the vehicle.

Regarding your truck, the wheel sensor is built into these bearings. There could be a case where the wheel the bearing causes the wheel speed sensor to read incorrectly. If that happens, the transfer case could be getting the wrong information. That could explain some of your issues, such as not going into or out of four-wheel drive. However, I would not replace the wheel bearing just based on what "could" be wrong. If it is the wheel bearing, it will get worst and make itself known. The type of wheel bearing on your truck uses two rows of ball bearings and are very strong.

**Wheels:** What do you suggest that Gary do?

**Halderman:** I suggest that he does not start replacing parts at this time. Instead he should try to pin down the location of noise by doing the following:

1. Have someone else in the truck. This helps because then you can concentrate on driving and try various maneuvers while the passenger concentrates on the location of the noise
2. Try to pin down exactly when and under what conditions that noise can be heard. This will help the serviced technician not only verify the noise but also verify that the problem has been fixed.

