

Space tram is a relatively old idea which refers to the initial speed used for a spaceship to reach orbit. As you go higher, the gravity force is weaker, and friction due to air is lower, so you need less energy to go higher. But of course, there are certain problems with this approach.

First, you need a long, more or less straight ramp (100 km) to achieve a decent speed (up to several km/s). That kind of speed is possible to achieve in a vacuum only, so you need an isolated ramp (tunnels or pipes). Then, of course, there is air resistance, so it is much better to fire your ship at the highest level possible to decrease it. You will also need a huge amount of energy to boost your ship. All this makes that idea not impossible, but really difficult and expensive to achieve.

It is clear that rocket transport has its limitations, including the amount of cargo that could be transported and the price for cargo transportation. It's just not the right path going forward. So, that concept of travel to the orbit might be a good alternative.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/StarTram>