

Anchors at Baltimore

(March 2025)

The reader may recall that at 01:28:43 local time on March 26th, 2024 a container ship hit a main pillar of a bridge over the Patapsco River in Baltimore, and the bridge collapsed.

On March 20th, 2025, the NTSB (National Transportation Safety Board) released a new report on the accident.

The report addresses the safety of 68 bridges at risk of a similar date in the United States.

The report does not state novel findings about maritime events. The initial [report of May 14th, 2024](#) is therefore still extant in that regard.

The reader may also recall the [maritime analysis](#) of the event which the author of these lines proposed on March 27th, 2024, the very next day after the accident.

The reader may notice the important discrepancy between the reports as regards the handling of the anchors ¹, and the haze behind which the subject seems to be placed in the NTSB report, going so far as to seemingly confuse one anchor for the other.

In the eye of this author, the issue rested not so much with the preliminaries to the accident (electrical issues), as with the maritime response of the ship's crew and pilots.

Technical failures do happen, and their root causes must be investigated.

Which, in the understanding of this author, should not release the investigator of a duty to thoroughly address the immediate response to a technical failure.

¹ References to the word "anchor" are highlighted in yellow in the NTSB report