



## Baltimore Bridge (Francis Scott Key Bridge)

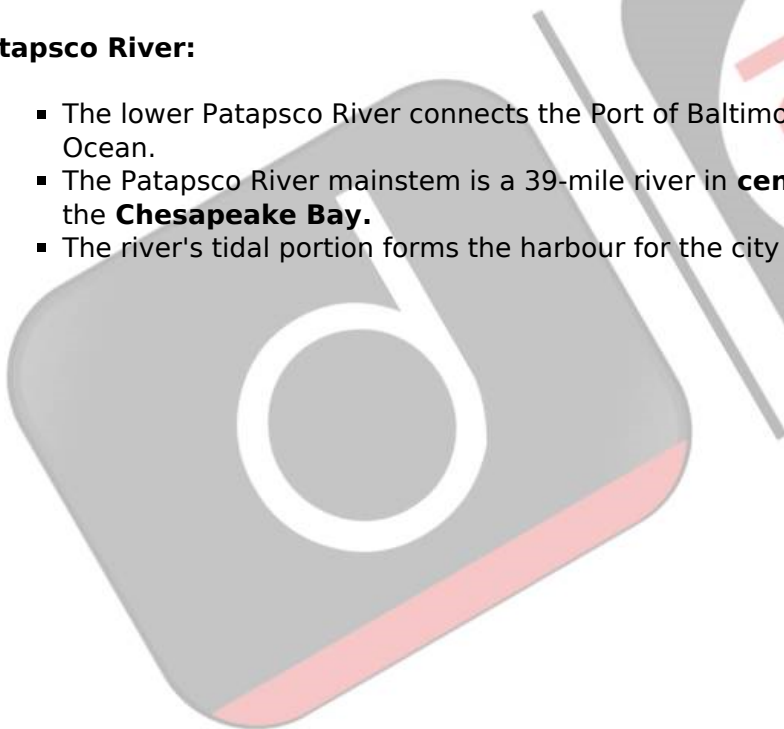
[Source: TH](#)

Recently, a container vessel collided with the **Baltimore Bridge**, causing several parts to break and fall into the **Patapsco River**.

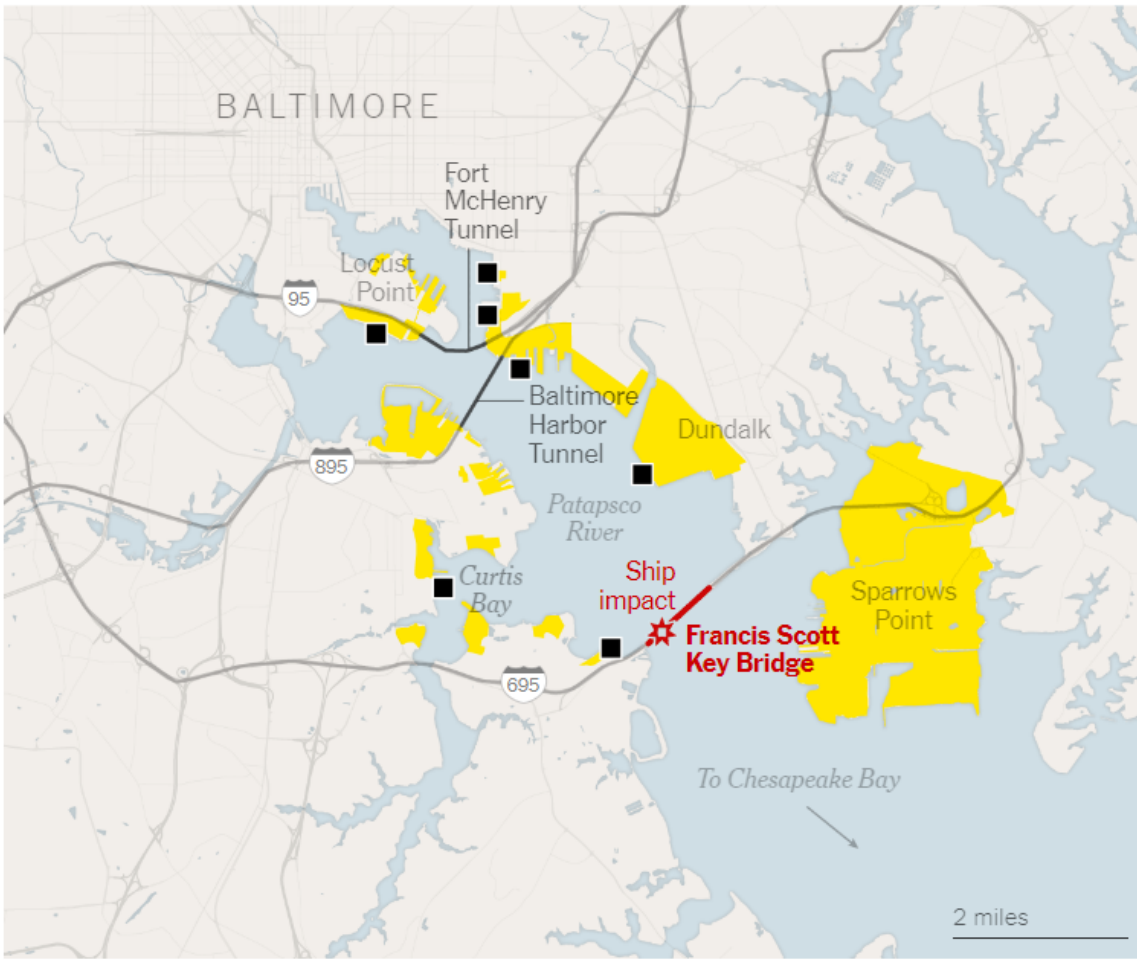
- It is named after **Francis Scott Key**, the writer of the **American national anthem (The Star-Spangled Banner)**.
- The ship deviated from the **standard route** under the **Bridge**, unlike large ships leaving the **Port**.
- The Bridge lacked redundancy and was "**fracture critical**," meaning a failure in any member could lead to a **partial or complete collapse**.
  - **Baltimore** was the **17<sup>th</sup> biggest port** in the **United States** in 2021.
  - It is the **biggest vehicle-handling port** in the country, including cars and heavy farm equipment.

### Patapsco River:

- The lower Patapsco River connects the Port of Baltimore to the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean.
- The Patapsco River mainstem is a 39-mile river in **central Maryland** that flows into the **Chesapeake Bay**.
- The river's tidal portion forms the harbour for the city of Baltimore.



■ Port facilities ■ Stranded cargo and tanker ships



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