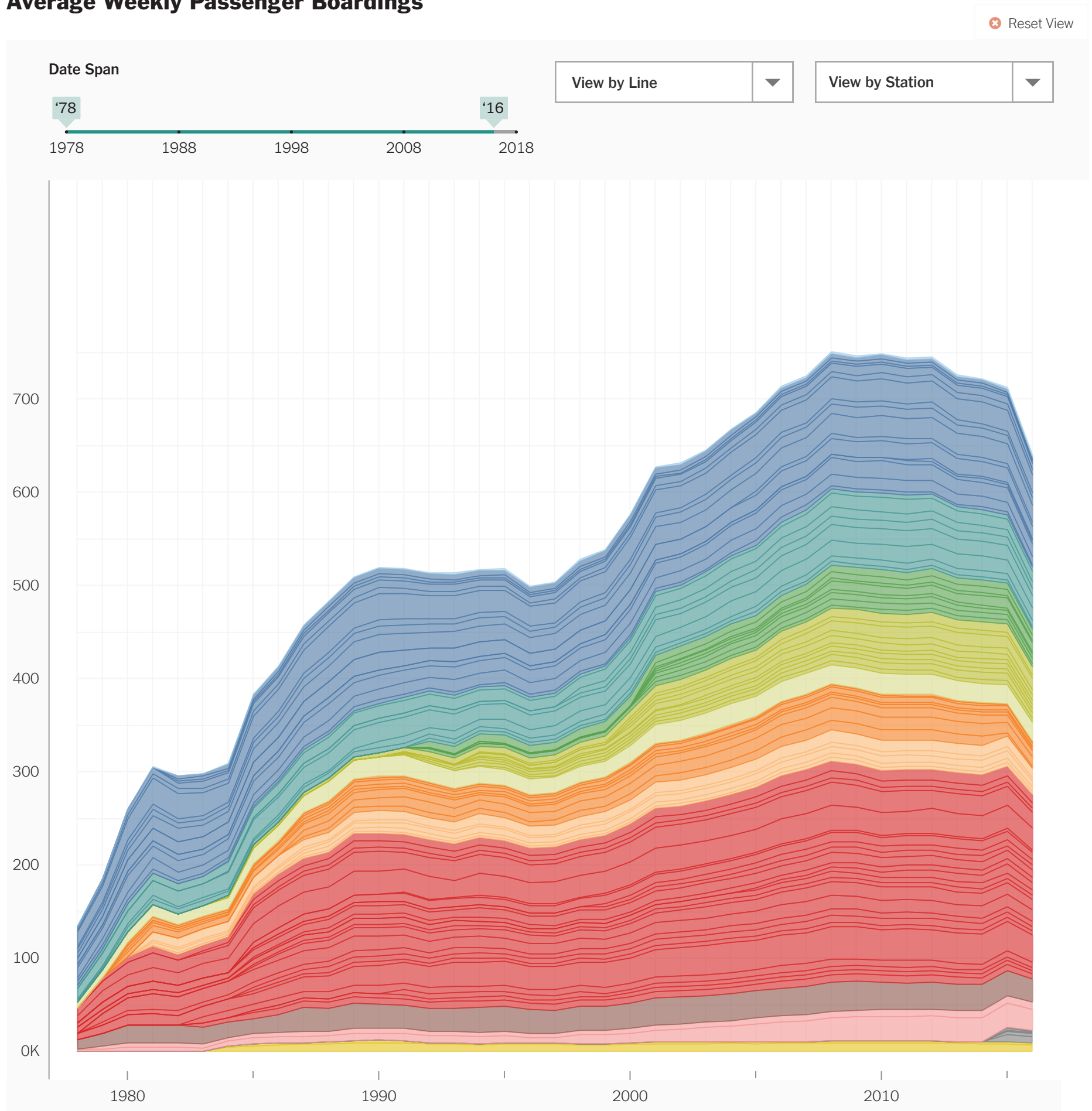# Metro Ridership Downturn in Recent Years

Metro's rail system has grown substantially from a daily ridership of 103,000 in 1977 to 723,000 in 2007. In recent years, however, Metro has had ups and downs, with several safety incidents and lack of regular maintenance on an aging system causing a significant downturn in ridership. This is despite the Silver Line expansion in 2014. Much of the drop can be attributed to the year-long maintenance initiative SafeTrack in 2016–17.

The addition of the new 7000-series cars, which have fewer maintenance issues, and removal of older-series cars, as well as continued system repairs in the past year bode well. It remains to be seen whether this will improve performance enough to coax riders back riding Metro.

The graph below shows the average weekly passenger boardings for each year, broken down by metrorail station.

Average Weekly Passenger Boardings

Reset View

Date Span

'78   '16

1978   1988   1998   2008   2018

View by Line

View by Station

NOTES:

Default view shows full year span (1978 – 2016), all stations, grouped by color by stations. Points along lines in graph area are clickable.

Dates indicators are slidable on the date span slider. Graph area refreshes once a new start or end date is chosen. Slider has a minimum of 1-year span; max is the default.

The view can be reset to default by clicking on "Reset View" in the upper right.
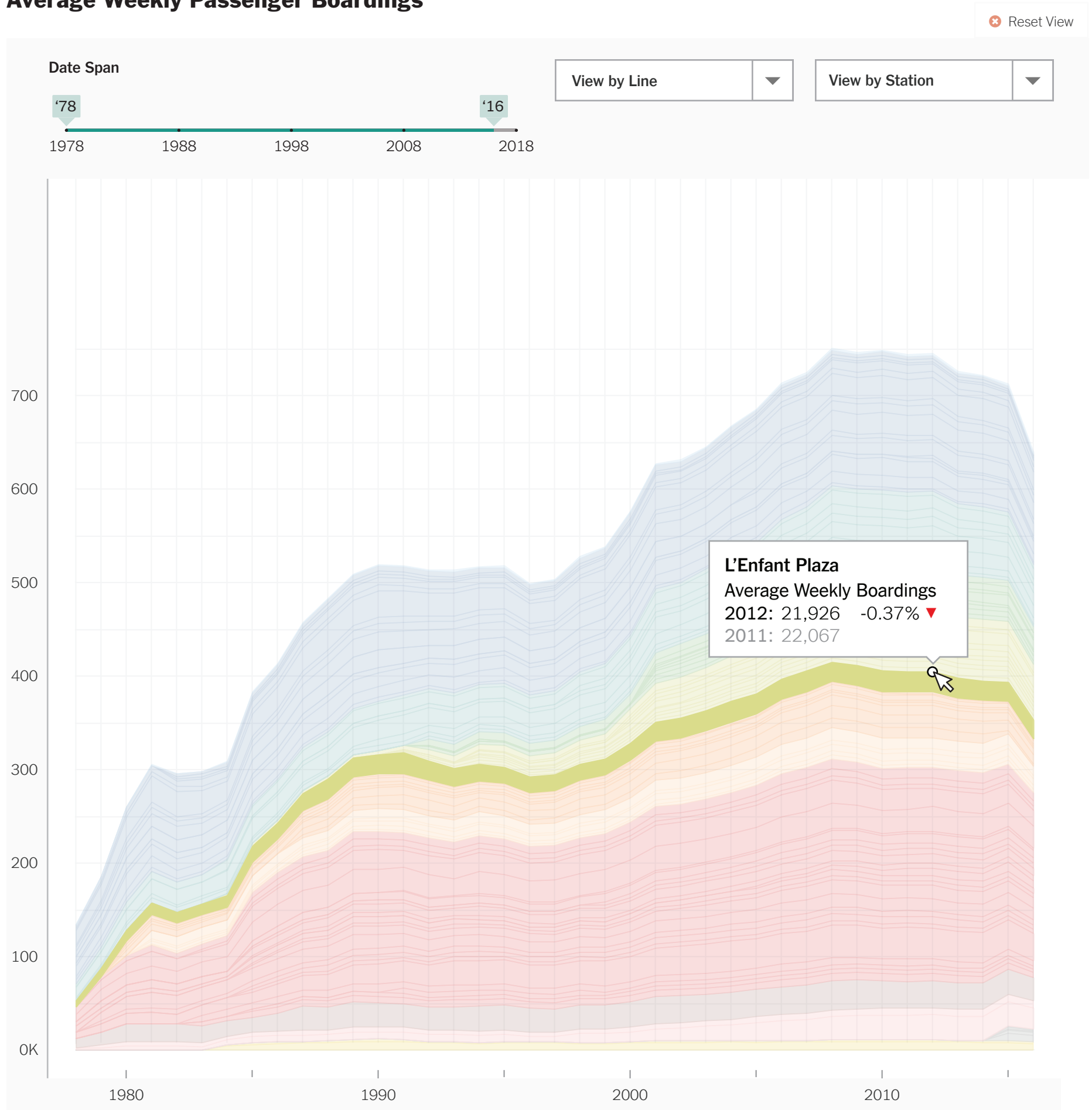
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❌ Reset View

Date Span

'78   '16

1978   1988   1998   2008   2018

View by Line ▾

View by Station ▾

L'Enfant Plaza
Average Weekly Boardings
2012: 21,926   -0.37% ▼
2011: 22,067

700

600

500

400

300

200

100

0K

1980   1990   2000   2010

NOTES:

Clicking on a point in the graph area will show a popup with data about that point.

It will automatically highlight the Station associated with the point. e.g. In the above view, the L'Enfant Plaza area of the graph is highlighted and a popup for 2012 shows at the data point that was clicked. The other data on the graph will be dimmed by 50%.
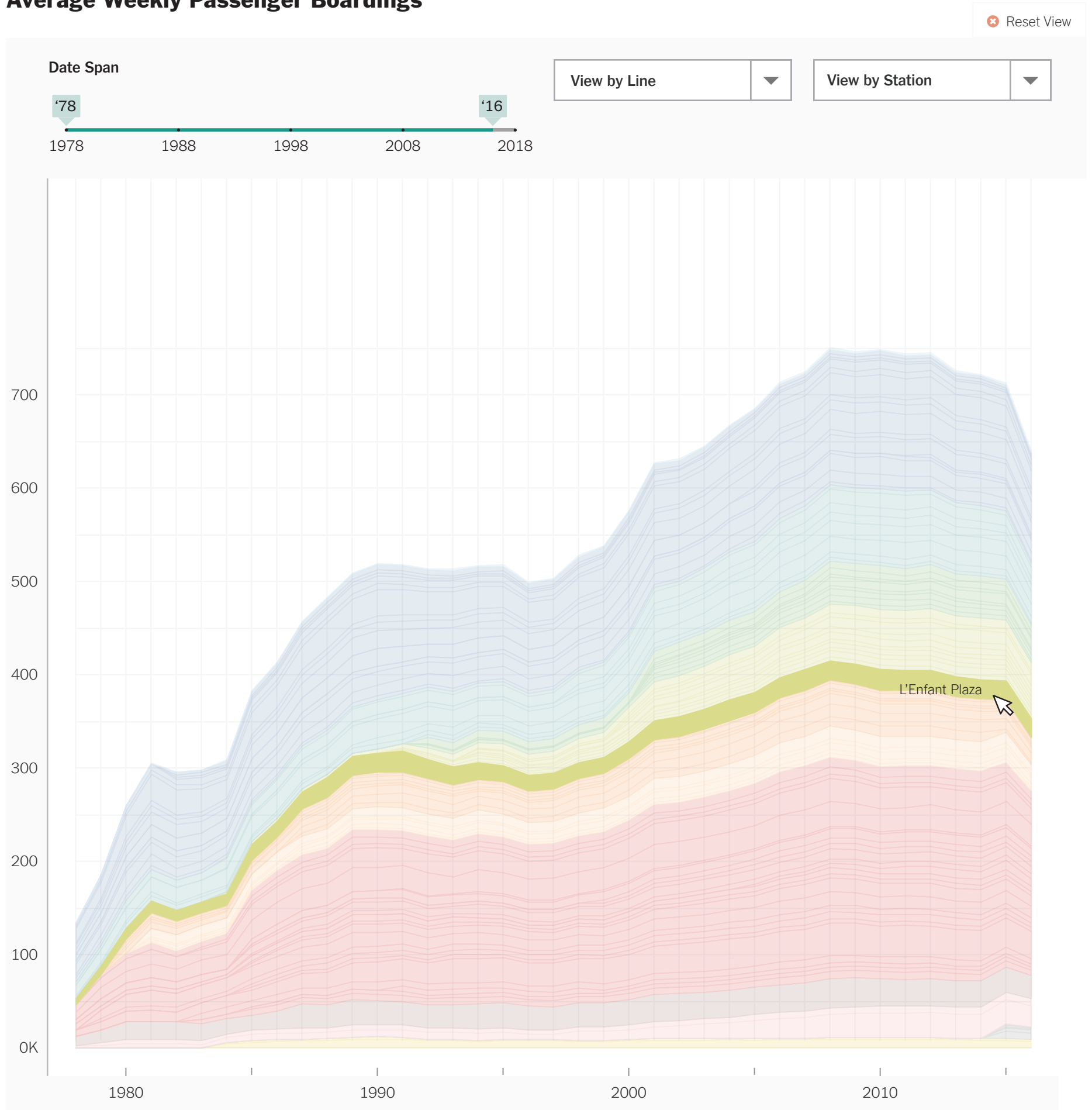
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⊗ Reset View

Date Span

'78   '16

1978   1988   1998   2008   2018

View by Line ▼   View by Station ▼

L'Enfant Plaza

700

600

500

400

300

200

100

0K

1980   1990   2000   2010

NOTES:

Clicking on an area in the graph will highlight that Station on the graph

Hovering over points or areas on the graph will show the name of the Station overlayed.
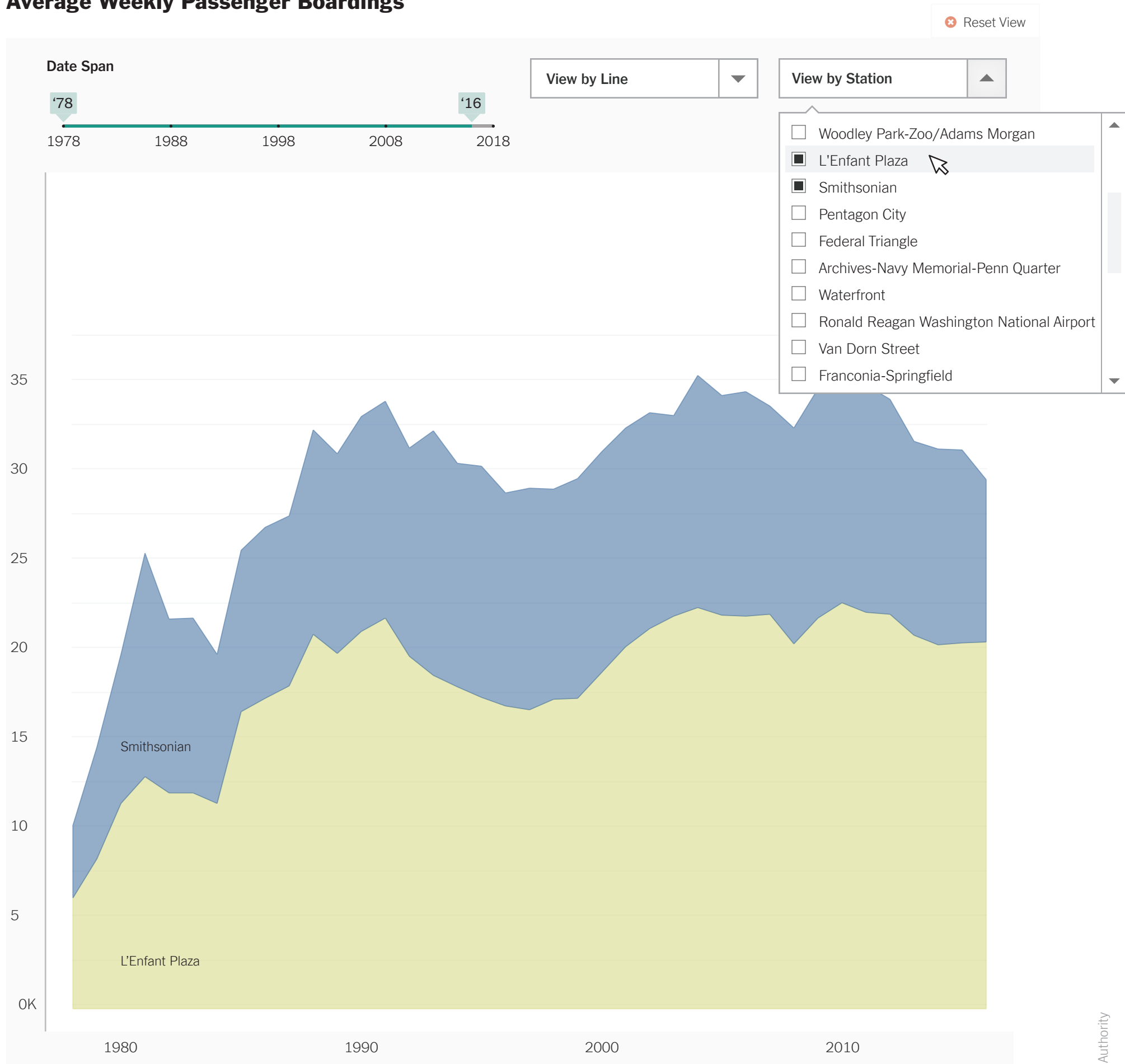
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Average Weekly Passenger Boardings

⊗ Reset View

Date Span

'78   '16

1978   1988   1998   2008   2018

View by Line   ▼   View by Station   ▲

- ☐ Woodley Park-Zoo/Adams Morgan
- ☑ L'Enfant Plaza
- ☑ Smithsonian
- ☐ Pentagon City
- ☐ Federal Triangle
- ☐ Archives-Navy Memorial-Penn Quarter
- ☐ Waterfront
- ☐ Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport
- ☐ Van Dorn Street
- ☐ Franconia-Springfield

NOTES:

Choosing a Station or multiple Stations from the dropdown will repopulate the viewing area with data related to the Station(s) chosen. The y-axis scale will change so that each Station on the graph is more easily viewed.

Labels showing the name of each station will appear by default on top of the graph.
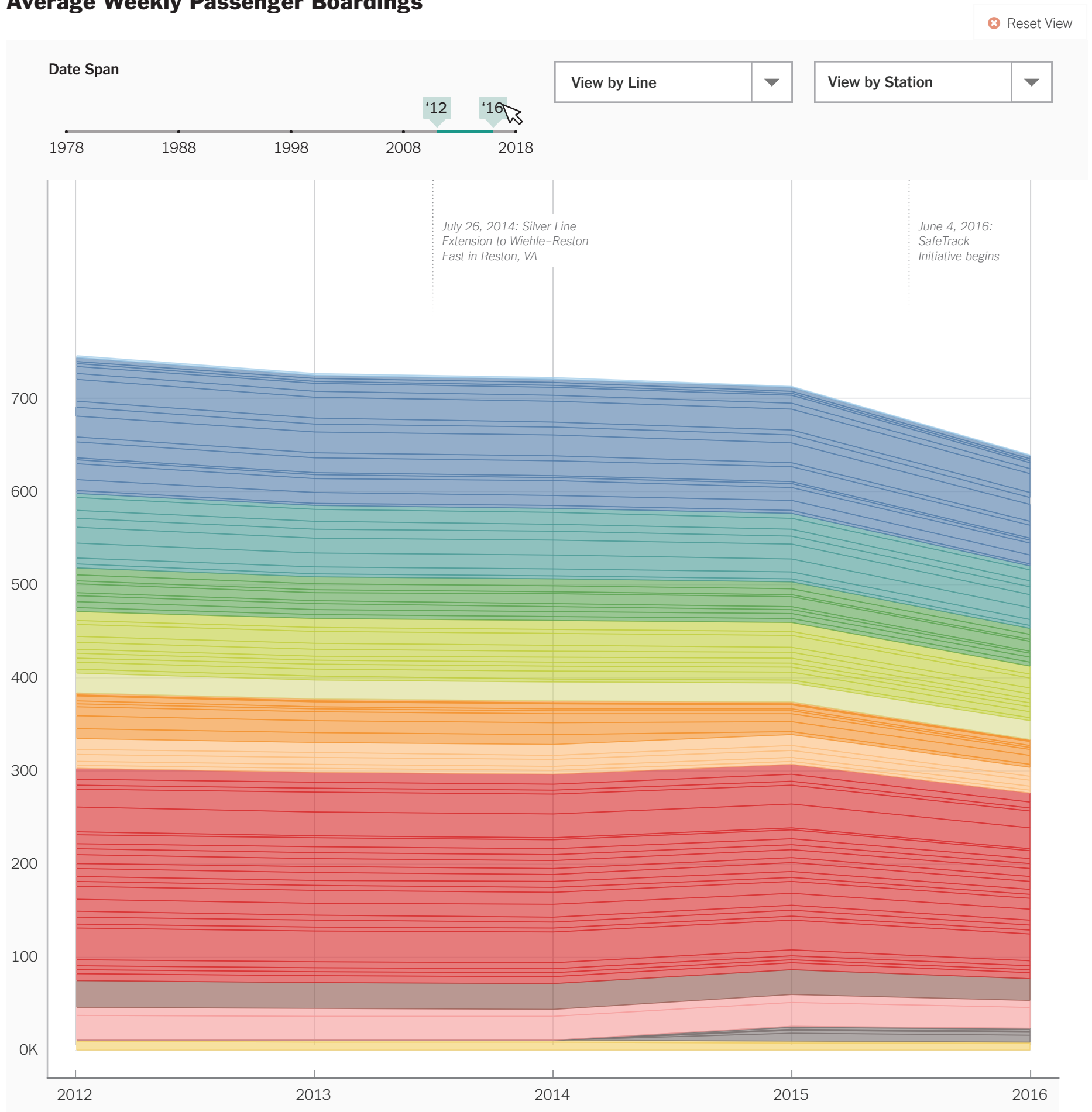
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Average Weekly Passenger Boardings

Reset View

Date Span

View by Line

View by Station

1978   1988   1998   2008   2018

'12   '16

July 26, 2014: Silver Line Extension to Wiehle–Reston East in Reston, VA

June 4, 2016: SafeTrack Initiative begins

700

600

500

400

300

200

100

0K

2012   2013   2014   2015   2016

NOTES:

Choosing a span of years will refresh the graph to show just those years. The same interactivity described previously regarding clicking on the graph also applies to this view.
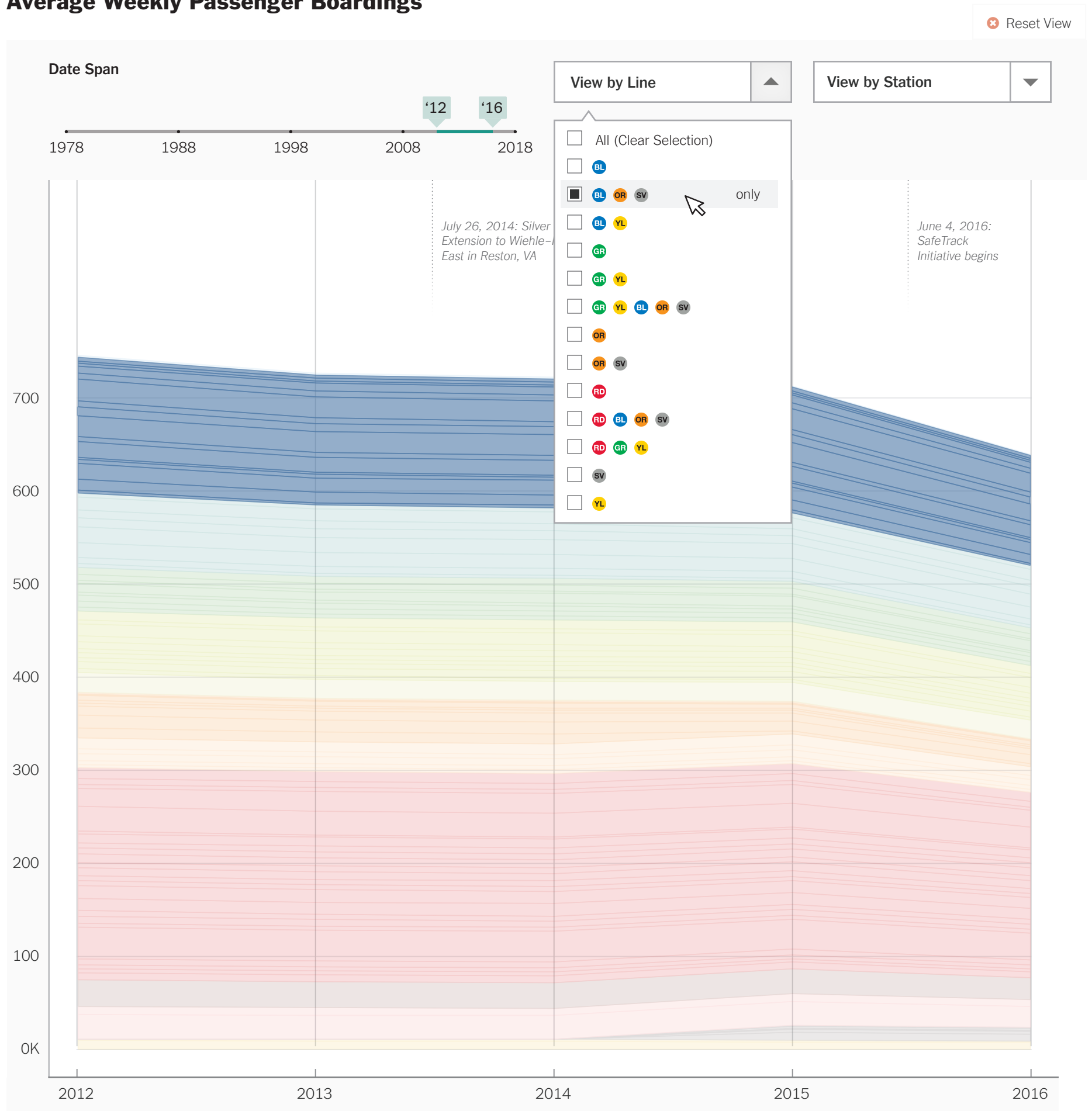
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Average Weekly Passenger Boardings

Reset View

Date Span

1978   1988   1998   2008   2018

'12   '16

View by Line

- ☐ All (Clear Selection)
- ☐ BL
- ☑ BL OR SV   only
- ☐ BL YL
- ☐ GR
- ☐ GR YL
- ☐ GR YL BL OR SV
- ☐ OR
- ☐ OR SV
- ☐ RD
- ☐ RD BL OR SV
- ☐ RD GR YL
- ☐ SV
- ☐ YL

View by Station

July 26, 2014: Silver Extension to Wiehle– East in Reston, VA

June 4, 2016: SafeTrack Initiative begins

700

600

500

400

300

200

100

0K

2012   2013   2014   2015   2016

NOTES:

Choosing from the Line dropdown will highlight the stations associated with that Line.
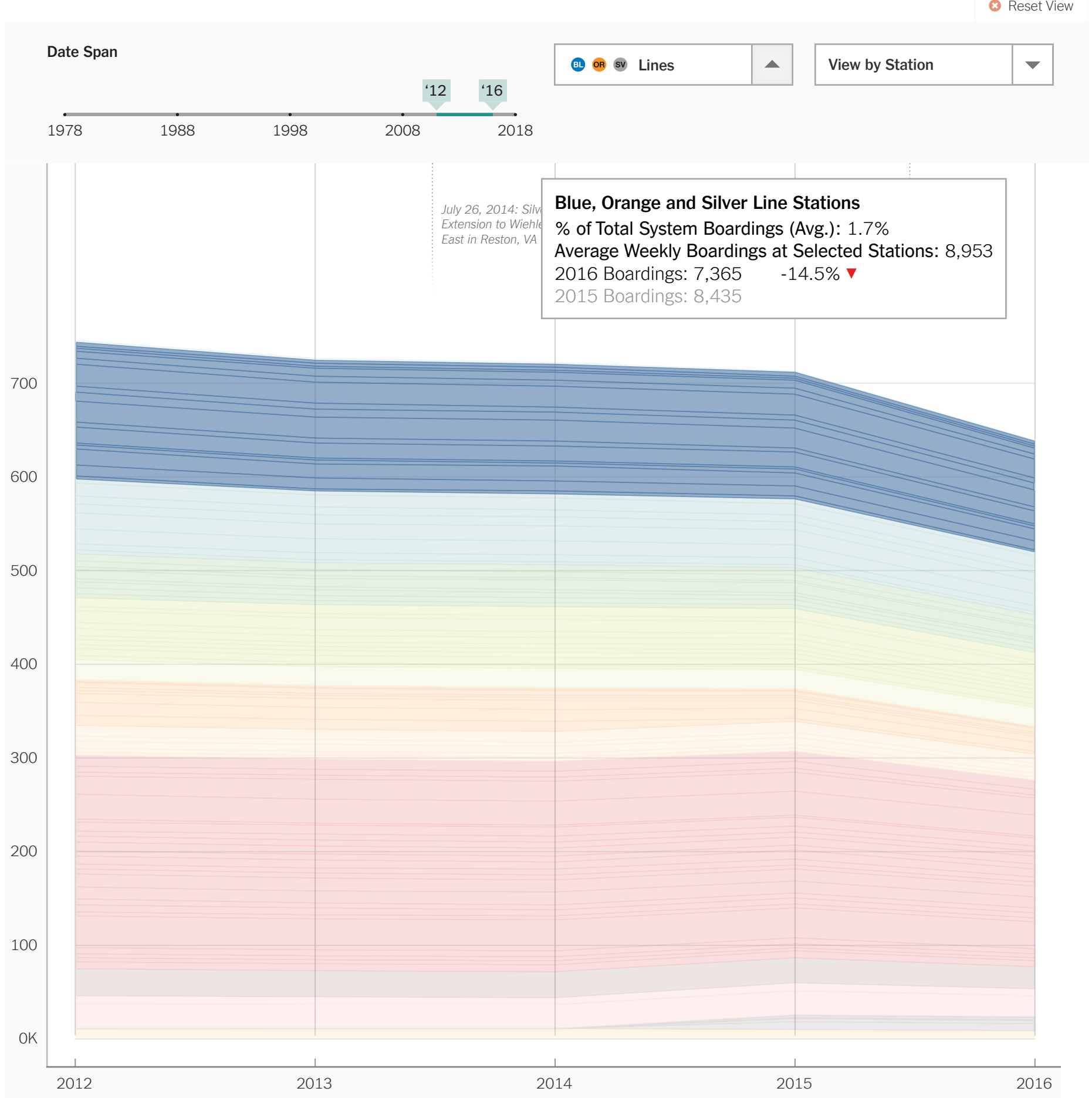
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Average Weekly Passenger Boardings

Reset View

Date Span

'12   '16

1978   1988   1998   2008   2018

BL OR SV   Lines

View by Station

July 26, 2014: Silv
Extension to Wiehl
East in Reston, VA

Blue, Orange and Silver Line Stations
% of Total System Boardings (Avg.): 1.7%
Average Weekly Boardings at Selected Stations: 8,953
2016 Boardings: 7,365   -14.5% ▼
2015 Boardings: 8,435

700

600

500

400

300

200

100

0K

2012   2013   2014   2015   2016

NOTES:

Once chosen, the graph view will refresh and display data regarding that line (or seelcted group of stations) in an info box in the upper right.
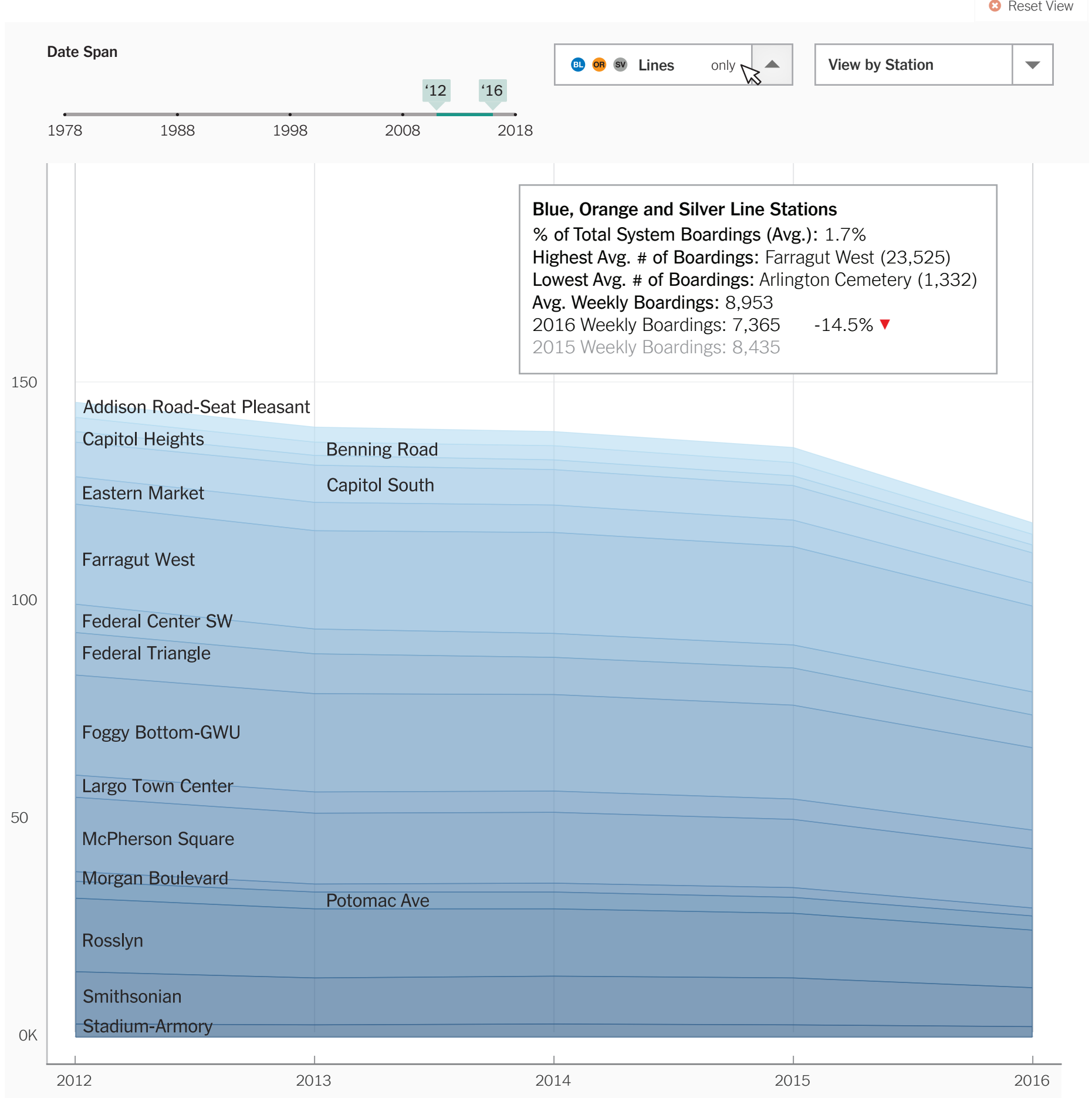
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Average Weekly Passenger Boardings

Reset View

Date Span

'12 '16

1978   1988   1998   2008   2018

BL OR SV Lines   only ▲

View by Station ▼

Blue, Orange and Silver Line Stations
% of Total System Boardings (Avg.): 1.7%
Highest Avg. # of Boardings: Farragut West (23,525)
Lowest Avg. # of Boardings: Arlington Cemetery (1,332)
Avg. Weekly Boardings: 8,953
2016 Weekly Boardings: 7,365   -14.5% ▼
2015 Weekly Boardings: 8,435

150

Addison Road-Seat Pleasant

Capitol Heights
                    Benning Road

Eastern Market
                    Capitol South

Farragut West

100

Federal Center SW

Federal Triangle

Foggy Bottom-GWU

Largo Town Center

50

McPherson Square

Morgan Boulevard
                    Potomac Ave

Rosslyn

Smithsonian

Stadium-Armory
0K

2012   2013   2014   2015   2016

NOTES:

Clicking on the "only" label within the Line dropdown will repopulate the viewing area with data only related to that Line. The y-axis scale will change so that the areas for each Station on the graph is more easily viewed.

Labels showing the name of each station will appear by default on top of the graph.

An info box about the Line (grouping of stations) will appear at the top right.