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## Chapter 4

# Transparency

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## 4.1 Example 4-1

This example will demonstrate how to create transparent shapes in MicroStation, without having to use Descartes like you use to have to do in the past.

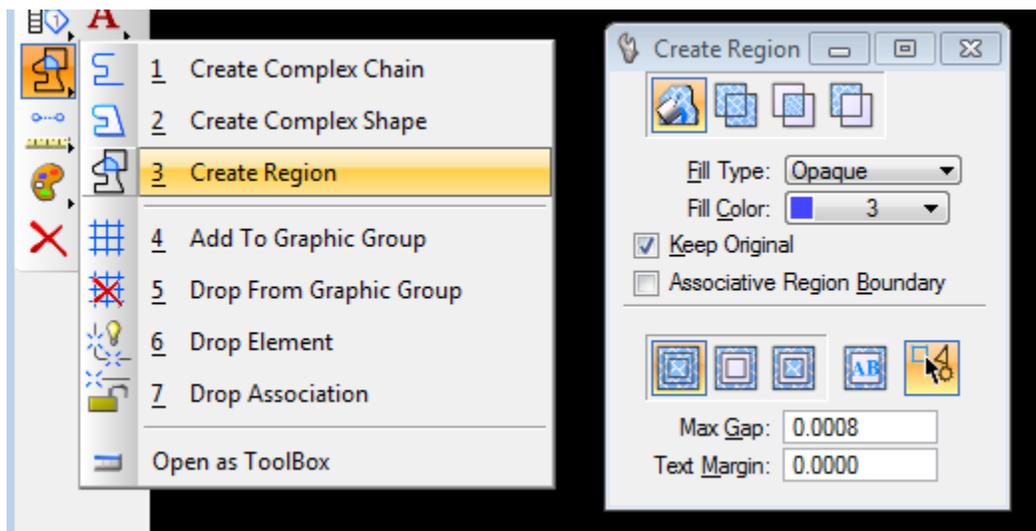
Of course, there are many ways of creating filled shapes in MicroStation, but these instructions will give you an overall understanding of how to apply the transparency to the filled shapes.

1. In ProjectWise, open the following MicroStation file:

pwname: \\MoDOT\Documents\District CADD\Design\cadduser##\J5P0887\Plan\_J5P0887.dgn

2. Determine the area you want to have filled. Use the **Create Region** tool or **Place Shape** tool and create the filled shape.

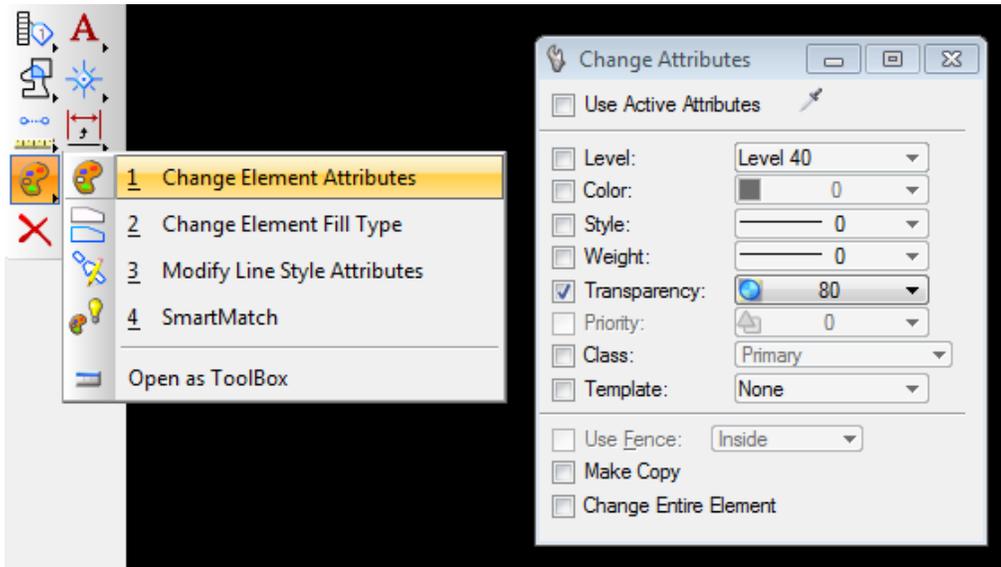
When using either tool, set the fill type to **Opaque** and the fill color to the **desired color**.



3. Once you have the filled shapes created, you can now apply the transparency to them.

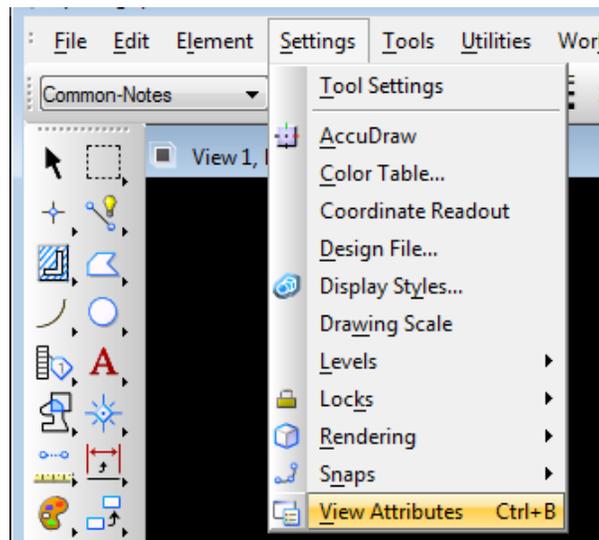
Select the **Change Element Attributes** tool. Check the **Transparency** toggle in the tool and then determine what percent of transparency you wish for the filled shape.

Once those options are selected, go through the file and apply the transparency to the desired filled shapes.



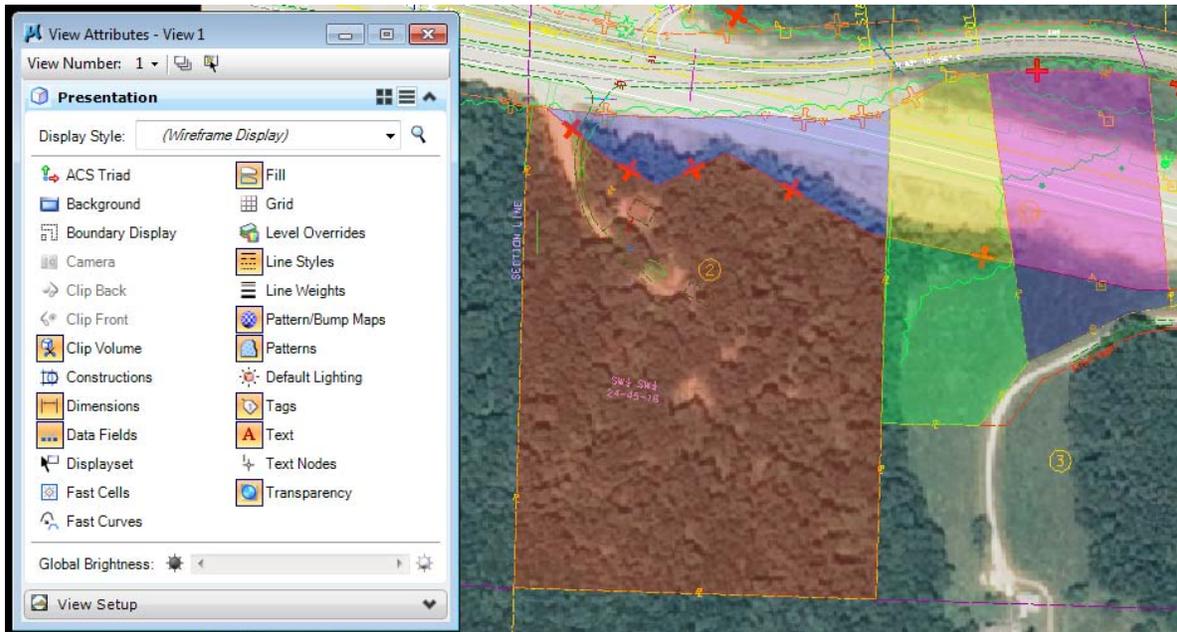
4. After applying the transparency to the shapes, you will probably notice that nothing visually happens to the filled shapes.

In order to display the transparency on the filled shapes, open the **View Attributes** tool (under *Settings* pulldown or the *first icon* in the View Tools)



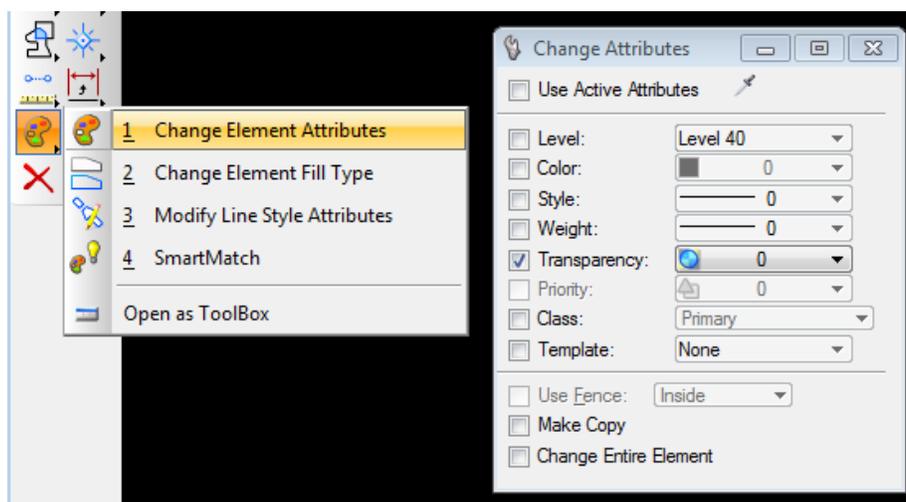
- Toggle on the **Transparency** option the *View Attributes* dialog.

If the transparency was applied correctly in the previous steps, the filled shapes should look something like the image below:



- Once you have the desired transparent shapes, **MAKE SURE** you go back and change the Transparency option in the Change Attribute tool back to **0**.

This has to be done so you don't accidentally start creating geometry (like edge of pavement line, guardrail line, etc.) and having that transparency applied to the lines.



### 4.2 Example 4-2

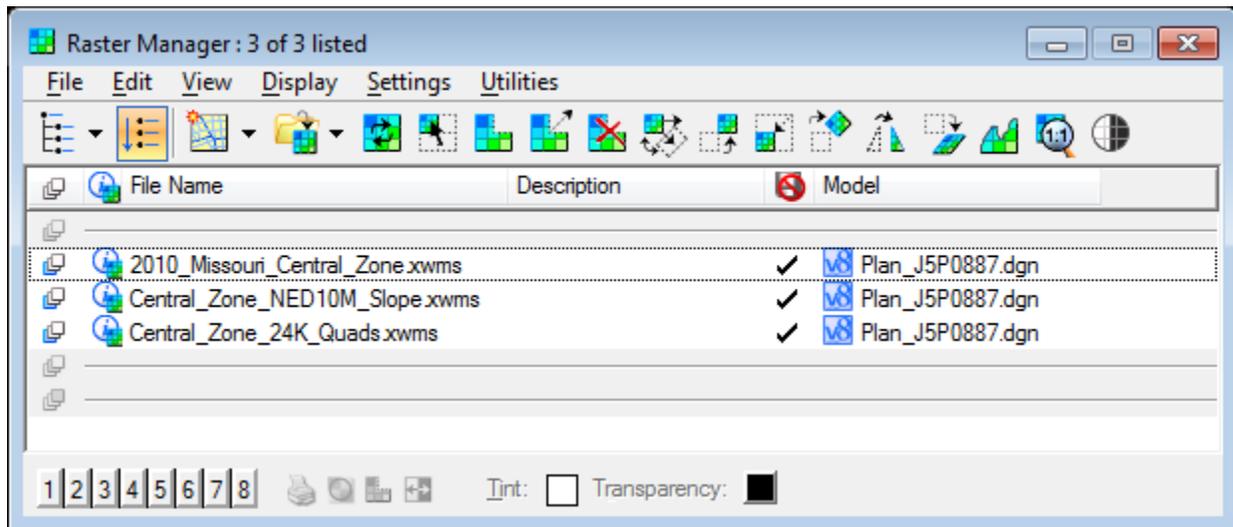
This example will demonstrate how to apply a transparency to a raster image and/or web map server in order to see through to another raster image and/or web map server.

1. In ProjectWise, open the following MicroStation file:

**pwname: \\MoDOT\Documents\District CADD\Design\cadduser##\J5P0887\Plan\_J5P0887.dgn**

2. Open the Raster Manager and attach the following web map servers:

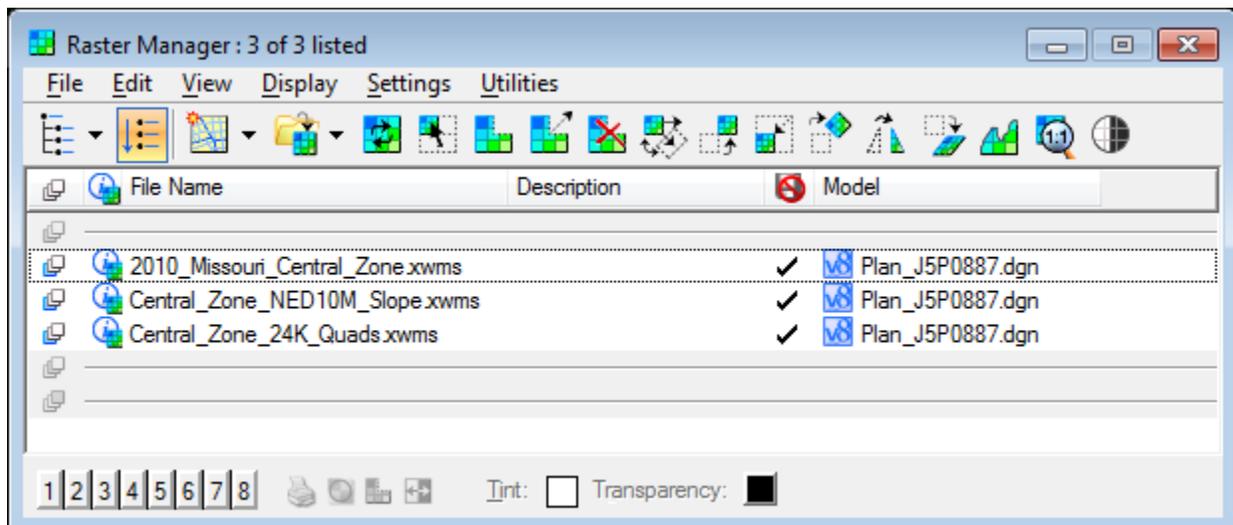
**2010\_Missouri\_Central\_Zone.xwms**  
**Central\_Zone\_NED10M\_Slope.xwms**  
**Central\_Zone\_24K\_Quads.xwms**



- In the Raster Manager, the order of the raster images or web map servers is important. This is because MicroStation looks at the order of raster images or web map servers attached and uses the last one in the list as the “top” raster image or web map servers that will display in the MicroStation view.

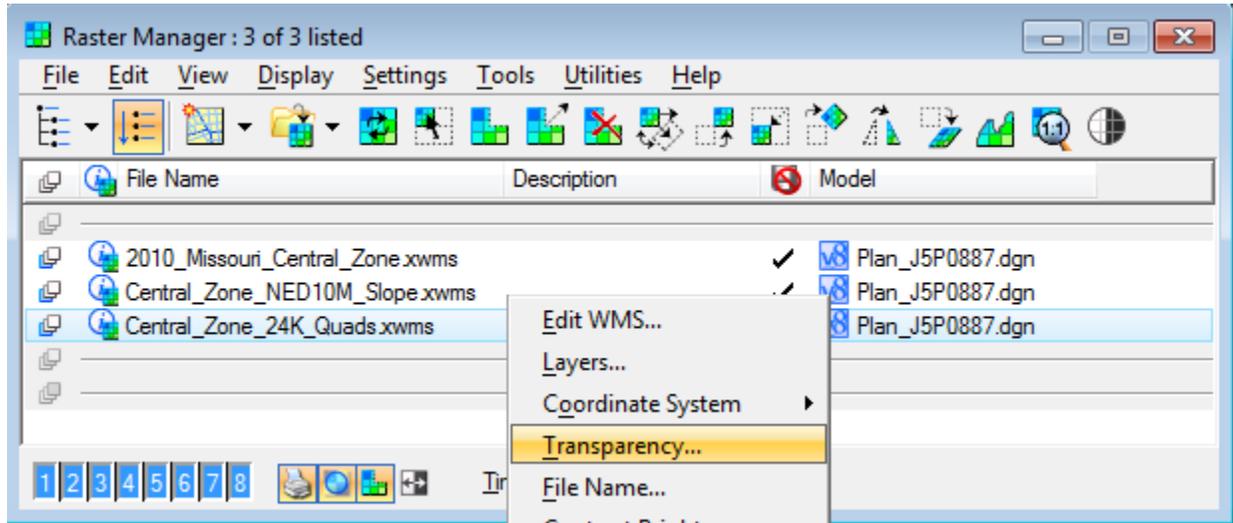
For this example, we want the **Central\_Zone\_24K\_Quads.xwms** to be at the bottom of the list so it will be the “top” one displayed in the MicroStation view. This will also allow us to apply the transparency to this web map server and we will be able to see the next web map server imagery through the *Central Zone 24K Quads* web map server.

For this example, reorder the web map servers as shown in the image below. This is done by simply selecting the raster image or web map server in the Raster Manager dialog. Then hold your left mouse button down and move it up or down to the desired spot so the order of the files is the way you want it.



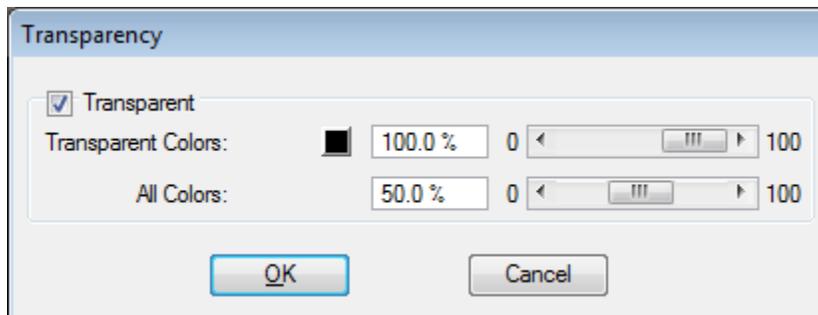
- Now we can go through and apply the transparency to the *Central Zone 24k Quads* web map server. In the Raster Manager dialog, select the **Central\_Zone\_24K\_Quads.xwms**.

Right click over the selected web map server and choose the **Transparency** option.



- In the Transparency dialog, first toggle on the **Transparent** option. You will now have the options to apply the percentage of transparency.

In the **All Colors** option, type in or move the bar to the desired percentage of transparency for the selected web map server.



Once that percentage is set, click **OK**. You should see the web map server imagery update to reflect the transparency applied to it. You also will be able to see the next web map server imagery or raster image (that has the display turned on) through the transparent web map server or raster image.

**Save changes to the file.**

### 4.3 Exercise 4-1

1. In ProjectWise, open the following MicroStation file:

pwname: \\MoDOT\Documents\District CADD\Design\cadduser##\J5P0649\Plan\_J5P0649.dgn

2. Determine the area you want to have filled. Use the Create Region tool or Place Shape tool and create the filled shape. Set the fill type to **Opaque** and select the desired **fill color**.

For this exercise, just pick out 4 – 6 areas for creating the filled shapes.

3. Select the **Change Element Attributes** tool. Check the **Transparency** toggle in the tool and then determine what percent of transparency you wish for the filled shape.

Go through the dgn file and apply the transparency to the filled shapes.

4. To display the transparency on the filled shapes, open the **View Attributes** tool (under *Settings* pulldown or the *first icon* in the View Tools).

5. Toggle on the **Transparency** option the View Attributes dialog to see the transparent shapes.

6. Once you have the desired transparent shapes, **MAKE SURE** you go back and change the Transparency option in the Change Attribute tool back to **0**.

This has to be done so you don't accidentally start creating geometry (like edge of pavement line, guardrail line, etc.) and having that transparency applied to the lines.

**Save the changes to the dgn file.**