

# Sidewalk coming to tricky area of upper West Main Street

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WATERBURY — The city will use a \$459,817 state grant announced Friday to continue sidewalks from the commercial area of upper West Main Street to connect with one by Naugatuck Valley Community College.

At present, pedestrians moving about 1,100 feet between the college and commercial area must negotiate a sharp corner where a steep hill leaves little room between the pedestrian area and passing traffic.

Deputy public works Director Mark Lombardo said extension of the sidewalk on the northern side of West Main Street has been “on the radar” for a few years due to the growth of the community college and an accompanying increase in pedestrians.

The city had planned to build the concrete sidewalk this year with city funds. But inclusion of the Community Connectivity Grant announced Friday will allow the city to work on other city sidewalks, Lombardo said.

The city is one of 10 communities splitting \$5 million available in the grant program.

Lombardo said the concrete sidewalk will have to cut into the hill rounding the corner by West Main Street, meaning it will need retaining walls.

In 2015, the city built about 600 feet of sidewalk for a bus shelter along Chase Parkway in front of the college. The work was performed by city staff. At the time, Mayor Neil M. O’Leary said he hoped to push on around the corner to West Main Street eventually.