2020B F=ma Exam: Problem 23

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We have from dimensional analysis,

$$F \propto R^{\alpha} \rho^{\beta} v^{\gamma}$$
$$\frac{ML}{T^{2}} = L^{\alpha} \left(\frac{M}{L^{3}}\right)^{\beta} \left(\frac{L}{T}\right)^{\gamma}$$

so counting powers of dimensions,

$$1 = \beta$$
$$-2 = -\gamma$$
$$1 = \alpha - 3\beta + \gamma$$

Then $\alpha = 2, \beta = 1, \gamma = 2$ and

$$F \propto R^2 \rho v^2$$

For the same drag force, we have

$$R^2 v^2 = R'^2 v'^2$$
$$v' = \frac{Rv}{R'} = 50 \text{ m/s}$$

so the answer is $\boxed{\mathbf{C}}$.