Let $H = (V, E)$ be a hypergraph on vertex set $V$ and the edge set $E$. Define the congestion of $H$, denoted by $\mu(H)$, to be the maximum minimum cardinality of any edge, where the maximum is taken overall subhypergraphs of $H$. The congestion can be shown to be the dual parameter to the degeneracy of a hypergraph. Now let $G = (V, E)$ be a graph and let $T$ be a tree decomposition of $G$. Clearly, $T$ is a hypergraph on the vertex set $V$ whose edges are bags of $T$. We establish a connection between the crossing number of $G$ and the congestion of $T$, or $\mu(T)$, that generalizes and strengthens some of the existing results for the crossing numbers. (Received January 20, 2015)